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Cuba

Foreign Ministry Cites 'Flagrant' Israeli Violations

FL0408015893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry today [3 August] issued a declaration calling on the international community to condemn Israel's flagrant violations of the legitimate rights of its Arab neighbors. The text says the Israeli Army has been bombarding southern Lebanon for several days, leaving a large number of dead and injured among the civilian population.

The text also stresses that the impunity with which Tel Aviv ignores international demands and the rights of neighboring countries to independence is once again clearly evident.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry statement ends by urging that urgent measures be adopted to stop this savagery and force the Israeli aggressors to restore the rights of the Lebanese people.

Robaina, Alarcon Speak at Sao Paulo Forum

FL3007114593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Speech by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, at the Fourth Sao Paulo Forum in the Havana Convention Center on 23 July—recorded]

[Text] [Robaina] Good evening. Before anything else, I think it is important to express our privilege and satisfaction in hosting this event. I believe that, in one way or another with some of those present, we have been able to share on other occasions some of the issues relating to life in our country and, particularly in these last days, the goal of our foreign policy. I believe that to make room in such a tight schedule to talk about the basic characteristics of the Cuban Revolutions's foreign policy at this time has a special meaning for our ministry and country. Therefore, I believe that we should first express appreciation for this opportunity, not only to the organizers of this event but to all those attending on such an evening and occasion.

In this type of meeting, people always ask for our arguments and the arguments that they request are never lacking. They do this in the spirit of wanting to continue their traditional support to our process and our project, and above all to continue defending us, as has been proposed, on other stages and in other places. I believe that we have been presenting those arguments for the last 34 years. I also believe that the mere existence of this project in these difficult times, having gone through the difficult situations of late, is undoubtedly already an important argument; the mere fact of existing. Nevertheless, I believe it is important for us to help our friends through conversations or meetings like this and more importantly, in meetings with the press, to have an additional opportunity not only to give further arguments to support changes that are made but to be able to reflect and transmit more strongly the things that are happening in Cuba and the measures we propose as part of our foreign policy to bring the truth about our project and work to the main international forums.

I think we need to explain that if anything has characterized the foreign policy of the Cuban Revolution over the years it has been, primarily, the capacity to adjust to the moment it is passing through. I believe that today I have the privilege of taking on these responsibilities not on a basis of improvisation, which could worry people. I have had the privilege of joining a highly experienced team; a team that has worked in foreign policy, not on the basis of the Ministry itself but with many people, who for many years have labored on the foreign policy of the Revolution, which has led us to this time in the manner in which we have arrived.

I believe we are privileged to be able to conduct a policy that today has 34 years of experience and a continuity we are striving to guarantee. Undoubtedly, we have all been taught that there is nothing more important than finding the capacity to adapt to the times we live in. If I were asked the essential characteristic of the foreign policy of the Cuban Revolution at this time, it would be to take advantage of the experience of those 34 years of existence—achievements, battles, discussions, tough encounters—where truth has always prevailed, and where even under difficult conditions we have been taught to continue fighting and struggling. To this we must add the speed and characteristics of the times through which the Revolution and the project we defend are passing. More importantly, it is not a foreign policy designed exclusively for the special period, although it is for a special period. The most important thing for us is that it is a foreign policy for the times. I believe that we should all strive not only to incorporate all the rich experience of these years, but also to see how we adapt to a world that is evolving at a very complex speed.

What other basic characteristic have we been wanting to incorporate into our foreign policy? Something we have also been taught. There is a Cuban Revolution foreign policy, thanks to the effort that is made in the domestic sector. There is nothing more important for us than to bring to the international arena and to this discussion the effort that makes this people build this project, day in and day out. To us there is no other foreign policy than the one that is a worthy reflection of the domestic policy and of the tense and difficult moments that the people are going through.

I believe this is something that has a special meaning to us. We are trying to transmit an image, which I would say is neither good nor bad. I have had discussions lately on

whether the main purpose of the transformations that are taking place is to present a good image of Cuba.

I believe we are not trying to give a good image of Cuba but to give the true image with our virtues and defects. We are not trying to give a good image but we are trying to counter the image that great campaigns and great monopolies of information tend to give regarding our reality. I believe our foreign policy currently involves audacity, courage, aggressiveness, intelligence, and answering many questions.

I would also like to tell you that we are not here only to answer questions. I think Cuba also has many questions to ask and many arguments to present even when we are not asked. I mention this because it is very important, and we are sincerely committed to avoid sitting on the bench of the accused around the world answering questions. Some have even grown accustomed to Cuba's answering questions. Cuba has many questions to ask and Cuba has many things to say even when not asked.

Therefore, it is very important for us to divulge this truth. We must transmit and give Cuban traits to this diplomacy, traits that in my opinion reflect Cuban men and women in important discussions in the international arena. They must be reflected in each event. That is something taught to us by the important figures who have represented us throughout these times.

At all costs we intend to restore, and later we can discuss, the ideals that have always been part of the project that began in Cuba many years ago and which, in one way or another, the great media monopolies, and unfortunately our own enemies, have almost stolen. It turns out that the ideals of liberty, democracy, and human rights, concepts that have always been characteristic and, I would say, not just characteristic but the reason for the existence of the project we defend, are being manipulated by others.

They are attempting to impose new, highly manipulated concepts of democracy, so-called freedom, and human rights. Let us not give in to the idea that ideals that have always been ours, not only as ideals but as ideas which we have not only defended but materialized in our project, can be stripped from us just like that.

Marti once said that in politics resisting was as important as attacking. We plan to do both. Not only do we intend to resist, because in resisting we will find victory, but by resisting alone we will not achieve what we want to achieve in the project that we are defending. It is important to attack and we intend to attack with great force many of the foreign policy tasks of these times.

I think it is important that we tell everyone, particularly you, that we have that basic aim. We understand that we live in a highly complex world. We also learned at a very early age that no man is an island. We know that the world will not adapt to Cuba. We know that [words indistinct] and we are going to work to involve ourselves in the world but preserve what to us is essential. We will not abandon our effort to join that world, no matter how difficult or complex. Therefore, I do not want anyone to believe that the Cuban people are going to stand by with folded arms, watching the world go by in terms of foreign policy, and making no effort to involve ourselves. We demand the same degree of respect for our effort to involve ourselves that we show to others in the world even when we do not share the projects and the ideas they defend.

I am not the first to say we are willing to evaluate, consider, and even negotiate many things except our principles, which to us are essential. Our principles, sovereignty, independence, and the characteristics by which we have defended our fatherland in these times are not negotiable. It has often been said that it is a matter of preserving the essential accomplishments of socialism. We have had to bring to what our efforts are to international speech to save that essence, what it is that we have been willing to negotiate and discuss, and what things would never be included in negotiations of this type.

People outside Cuba are demanding that we make many changes. Our enemies are asking us to make concessions. Our friends and our people would never forgive us if we were to make concessions involving principles. How to reconcile what our enemies are asking and demanding and what we ourselves, our people, and our friends would never forgive us for compromising constitutes the challenge we must face with the intelligence, boldness, and courage that we must have during this period so as to avoid remaining static, to get on with the task we need to work on and, of course, to say that there are many things that we Cubans would like to change.

We would like to change even more things and to change them faster. But the first thing we need is for people leave us alone! And once they leave us alone then we will see how many things we can change.

We all dare to accept the task and the proof lies in the many things that we have submitted for analysis here, in the midst of the most enormous pressures. I think it is important to be able to convey this and to be able to achieve this.

I think we have defined a number of the priorities of our foreign policy, which I would like to outline and explain to you very briefly. However, whatever the priorities may be.... [pauses] (?speaking) of priorities, well, we have gone through various stages in which there were many priorities, in which there were.... [pauses] Perhaps when many priorities have already been established, it becomes very difficult to see which are the true ones. However, if there is anything that we would say is fundamental to our work, it is how to go totally on the offensive, on a total offensive in everything we have to do and explain. Any and all of our priorities in foreign policy at the present time bear the stamp of or have as their basic characteristic exactly that, an offense, because

I do not think there is any reason that we should have to be constantly defending ourselves from attack.

I think there are many things we can do. And as we would say here to those who generally have very close relations with us and the advantage of speaking in a Latin American setting like this helps us understand one another better, as we would say in Cuba, the very act of waving the stop sign in front of [el proprio hecho de subirles la parada] those who ask us about and are concerned about Cuba.... [pauses] No one can be more concerned than we ourselves about the matters we are dealing with and discussing.

An anecdote: A friend who recently visited us was saying that he had spent his entire youth and a good part of his adult life in love with the work of the Revolution, enamored with this project, and that he had come to Cuba to convey to us.... [pauses] to tell us that, please, he was very much afraid that his love might now suffer a disappointment. A message which I greatly appreciate, of course.

I told him it was also very important for me to tell him: Look, my friend, you fell in love. The big difference between you and us is that we not only fell in love with the work, we married it! That is, we too have a great vested interest in keeping this suitor we loved.... [pauses] We too were in love but we didn't just stay in love. Rather, we are very committed to this lover. We married it and, furthermore, are still in love with the project and accomplishments we are defending.

So I can assure him, not only for his peace of mind but also so he can leave untroubled, that we, as much as he, are determined to defend a project that not only did we fall in love with and grow to love and admire, but also, and above all else, are ready to defend at this time.

I think there are many reasons that our policy is one of offense. One simple, main reason is we have nothing to be ashamed of. We have many (?proven) results, and independent of the fact that we still have many things to accomplish, every time I am asked what I want to say and what new things are left to be done, I say that I have such great confidence in the remainder of the project that we are defending that if in 34 years we have been able to accomplish as many things as we have, the road ahead of us is so long that, as far as I am concerned, we have much more left to accomplish than what we have already done.

I think that gives an idea of the value we place on something that not only has become sacred for us but which we also consider important to accomplish right now, since we are talking about the foreign policy of a nation with approximately 5.7 million people under 30 years of age. This means that it is also important to assess the very language we use and the ways to make the population aware of the accomplishments of the Revolution. Because what our parents look upon as sacred accomplishments, some of today's young people are not even.... [pauses] I mean, they do not see these things as sacred accomplishments, since we came into the world at a time when these deeds had already been achieved. These young people thus expect new accomplishments of this project. Therefore, it is a matter of making them understand what it has cost us to get this far, what we have to do to maintain the sacred [word indistinct], and what the accomplishments of the present time are. In my opinion, the key to success is participation. They must all feel they are participants.

So morale is very high, and there is much dignity, and we have a commitment that is not solely a commitment vis-a-vis the people of Cuba. I have had the privilege of hearing everyone who has spoken here over the past few days [words indistinct], and I want to tell you that we consider it tremendously important. And the speakers' own words show that we Cubans have a commitment not only toward 10 million Cubans but also toward the thousands of men and women in the world who trust in us. Regardless of what they may or may not share with us, they nevertheless greatly respect the way Cuba has tackled a project and defends it under such difficult conditions. (?We have noticed) that this commitment of ours is not just vis-a-vis Cubans but also thousands of men and women who defend.... [pauses] respect the way it is being handled.

We cannot speak of foreign policy without, in our case, defining one of our basic priorities having to do with the blockade, which we have insisted on condemning not only because of its inhumane, brutal nature but also because of the way in which, in times such as this, it continues to inflict such great damage on our country. I do not think I need to convince a forum like this, nor go any deeper, in a setting such as this, into the characteristics that today mean.... [pauses] or rather, what the repercussions of maintaining the blockade and a recrudescence of [words indistinct] are on our country. I think, in any case, that we are never going to give up. That is the reason we talk of such an important victory at the summit, to have included a paragraph such as the one that was included, which we might perhaps have liked [words indistinct]. It was important to us to get it included at least, as did indeed occur. But the truth of the matter is that the blockade, the motive of the blockade, is becoming progressively better understood. We Cubans will of course continue to work on this. I think this is a price they are making us pay, and they want us to pay it, at any price, just for having chosen our (?own path) of sovereignty and independence. And I think that, in any case, the most important thing is to give you current data on the blockade. Or, if you like, let us not call this data. Let us perhaps call it.... [pauses] something that can make the hearts and [word indistinct] of men and women of the world much more sensitive. The only sin close to 2 million children in this world.... [pauses] I mean, in this country, have committed is to have been born in this land. Those children with the smiling faces that you see on the streets these days, for they are on summer vacation, are condemned to die of hunger and disease for the sin of having been born in this country, .

And it seems to me that for mankind to just sit by and watch.... [pauses] no longer only because of the historic leaders, only because (?we, who) are defending the project or have made a commitment to the Revolution today.... [sentence as heard] Rather, to want also to sentence these 2 million children to die of hunger and disease in such a brutal manner, I think, must not only be denounced but also requires us to continue opening up paths so this denunciation will not remain just words.

I think that if, on the threshold of a new century, mankind just sits by and contemplates a crime such as this, in the next century we will have to say that this crime was not only contemplated but that contemplating it was also committing it.

And I think it is very important to arouse the (?wrath) of those men and women who, in today's world, still uphold that dignity and that way of facing things.

We are often asked about the blockade. This is very interesting, because here you have people asking us about the blockade, when it is we who are being blockaded! I always tell the media, every time they ask—and in these past three months, there has been no news conference that hasn't started with the matter of the blockade, the naval base, and the television [signals]....[changes thought] I would say that they should ask those same questions of that force out there on the front! Because, I mean, they always ask us, the blockaded! They always ask the questions of the territory on which the base is located—against our will—and they always ask the country that the television signal comes to.

But [as for] the nature of the blockade, I think people today more than ever have reasons to continue denouncing it. We will continue to take advantage of every setting, from the United Nations to summits to any setting such as this one, because I think we have many reasons to denounce that blockade.

People ask us what are we willing to give in exchange. I think the causes we are defending are so human and so real that it is not a matter of our having to give anything in exchange for the lifting of the blockade. We have all already established that if we were to begin a process of talks, [an end to] the blockade should be a condition. There are many things we need to talk about, but we ourselves do not need to give up anything in exchange for the lifting of the blockade because, I mean, the blockade is being imposed on our country unjustly! To agree to cede something in exchange for [the lifting of] the blockade would even mean being bound, de facto, by something that has to, to...[rephrases] in my opinion, some underlying validity, which we do not agree with, which is the gateway, uh...[rephrases] to want, um...[rephrases] I repeat: to lend credit to such an unjust decision.

I think that...[changes thought] so as not to have to discuss it later, I am taking this opportunity...[changes thought] and I apologize to the translators. I always...[rephrases] I mean, I am going to speak slowly, or at least try to, for those who are....[changes thought]

I will try to....[rephrases] It is in order to be able to say the greatest number of things in the shortest possible time; but please, you, too, forgive me!

In order not to have to take up the matter later—the subject of the United States, about which I was asked during Lage's [news] conference: I think that here, there is a longstanding disagreement, one that is almost....[rephrases] It is as longstanding for us as it is for you. I mean, many of the faces I see before me have been interested for the past 15 or 20 years in this relationship and how it can be improved or how these conflicts can be resolved. I think that....[rephrases] Questions have been raining down on us these days as to how we see things: whether a gesture is being made, what a gesture (?might consist of), [and so forth].

I do not want to go into any historical explanations on which we are all most likely heavily documented. I think maybe I prefer to talk about the current situation.

If it is a matter of gestures, there is no point in our getting overly enthusiastic. There are no reasons for getting at all overly enthusiastic about things. I want to say categorically that, well, we can appreciate a more moderate mode of speech—and not only have we appreciated it but we have also, to the same extent, responded in kind.

It is no secret that the language employed by representatives of the new administration has been more moderate, even though certain representatives of that new administration have also been quite removed from moderate language. Nevertheless, it is indeed true that more moderate language has been the norm. The highly aggressive language of the prior administrations has not continued. Neither, however, do I think we have any reason to expect anything more in so short a time. Because of certain matters that it is important to state, we are not a priority for the new administration, at this time.

I think it is also worth saying that the current administration is attending to very big internal problems, and that neither Latin America nor Cuba is a priority at the present time in the defining of U.S. foreign policy. And to this, we could add the fact that there are also a lot of internal pressures, and a lot of internal conflicts, that could continue to affect this relationship.

When all these things are considered, there is no reason for us to be feeling overly enthusiastic about Cuban-U.S. relations. There is a blockade, intensified as never before. As never before, there is a Torricelli Law, and even new regulations being established, that people are determined to apply. I am referring to [words indistinct] and such things. As never before, too, there is a television project, with certain difficulties inherent in this moment. But I think that, above all, we should place the matter in the context of the fact that such language exists.

We perceive that there might be a possibility of communicating, but that this does not depend on gestures that the Cuban side might have to make, because I think that all of you...[rephrases] to none of you does it come as news to hear that we are upholding our principles. We have always been willing to engage in dialogue, with perhaps just one condition—that there be no prior conditions: that is, that we sit down at a table as equals, and that no one go to the table in a subordinate position. If sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs were to be respected, we would be willing to talk.

Indeed, we do not even need to begin with the more complex topics! What we cannot accept, however, is their wanting to put the squeeze on us beforehand, saying to us: Let's talk, but under the following conditions.

We are a little country, and a poor one, but we have the same rights as the largest and richest of this world's countries. So we are not willing to give way.

I think there are many things on which we could move forward, if we could continue working along that path. I do not think—and we don't like it when...[rephrases] for them to talk to us about whether or not we acknowledge the fact that there is an important number of Cubans abroad. We know the characteristics of that Cuban community abroad. We have representatives in that Cuban community abroad—those who maintain a position of respect, of understanding toward us. Many of those are people who, via one route or another, visit the country, defying millions of norms and regulations. But, I mean, we have [always] been willing to converse, to talk with those who do show us such respect. Now, with those who, in addition, want us to take positions on which we cannot agree, which we do not share—people who are representative of the most reactionary strata of that community—obviously, we have not been willing to negotiate that which has cost those of us here in Cuba so much sweat, effort, and blood; nor are we going to be willing to negotiate it [in the future] through events, forums, dialogues, conferences, and that sort of thing.

I mean, I think that, as regards initiatives—just to call them something—the ball is in the United States' court. It is not up to us to throw out any initiatives, because, I repeat: We feel we have acted the way life has taught us to act—and [in a way] from which many people within the administration itself are drawing conclusions as to what 34 years of hostility, 34 years of this kind of war, have meant.

There is a priority: our foreign policy with regard to the country's image. We have to undertake a total offensive vis-a-vis the media. I want to tell you this with utmost clarity: (?an offensive) vis-a-vis the entire press, in our communications with the rest of the world.

We cannot compete, using our media, in that we have neither media, campaigns, nor possibilities. However, neither can we afford the luxury of failing to take advantage of even a single page of a single newspaper, or a single minute on television, or a single radio interview. And I don't mean at the ministry. I am talking about the work that the country does. But it is a matter of...[rephrases] Today, unfortunately, the world is moved through image wars; and in this war of images, our country is under a brutal attack. And then, later, even in what is cleared up or not cleared up, unfortunately, what remains is the impact of the first report, the impact of the gigantic campaign. Therefore, we have had to learn to take action in a gigantic offensive, so that our [version of the] truth may dominate.

As for the risk of being manipulated, this will not be the first time we have run such a risk. However, the risk of being manipulated is preferable to the risk of being ignored. And I think that, in light of this, we should go out and fight on all rostrums.

I think we range between extremes: We are neither as bad as they make us out to be nor as good as we would like to be. We are truly a country that has about it many good things, many normal things, and many bad things. I say that we range between extremes because, unfortunately, there are people who hate us, viscerally, (?and) who say there is absolutely nothing good in this country. There are others who say that Cuba is the eighth wonder of the world, and it is impossible to be the eighth wonder of the world given the difficulties we are facing. However, either of the two extremes today damages us, because neither is credible. It is preferable to speak of our own reality, with all its virtues and defects, so as to be able to move forward.

No one in the world knows more about our defects than we ourselves do. So let us talk about them ourselves, so as to be able also to discuss, in an equally truthful manner and with equal impact, our virtues. And when you argue the things that must be weighed, and tell someone that you are concerned not only with the two questions that we are always being asked but also with many other questions that we must not only ask ourselves but also answer for ourselves, obviously, people begin, we begin, to understand each another in new ways.

I think this is one of the...[rephrases] this is why some of our calculations...[rephrases] or all—or, rather, a good part—of the calculations about us that are made abroad fall short of the mark. For one simple reason. I'll tell you honestly: They do a lot of assessing of our situation, and draw a lot of conclusions a priori. They reach these conclusions outside the context in which Cuba lives and works, removed from the reality within which we operate. And since they are removed from Cuban reality, they are also removed from the characteristics of the population that has to deal with that reality. They sort of underrate, and often even scorn, the way this people not only confronts [its situation] but prepares itself for, operates within, and does a lot of analysis on these matters.

That is why many of the analyses that are made fall short of the mark; and that is why we sometimes say, when it

comes to computer calculations, we mess them all up! We pop up with deviations that they cannot imagine our being able to come up with, to the extent that we have a population that—culturally, technically, scientifically, and politically—is far better prepared [than others].

They [not further identified] talk to me a lot about oil, fuels, spare parts, and all the many [other] things we lack. I remain, however, of the opinion that the most important raw material of this country is produced locally. It consists of the men and women who are born here, grow up here, and operate here; who have had to live in these circumstances; who have been, politically speaking, trained in such a way as to draw strength from where it might look as though there is none left! And then, here comes that Cuban talent, that Cuban courage, that Cuban audacity that is so terrific in the streets and that we want to be as terrific in politics, the press, and anywhere else we might want it to go as it is in the streets!

I am often asked when the special period will end. I think we don't have a lot of time in which to ponder this. I wish we had the answer—not just so we could answer the question but also for ourselves, so we could calm down and know for ourselves the end of the special period. The answer is important not only for whoever asks us but for us ourselves, who are going through this special period! In my opinion, however, it would also be worthwhile to be aware—and perhaps convey the fact to many—that there are millions of men and women in the world today who yearn for such a special period, a period which for us involves very difficult circumstances—people who would perhaps like to have even half the (?peace) of this special period.

Although we do not want to compare ourselves with others, what we do want is to make our people see that, over a period of many years, we became accustomed to looking at ourselves in a mirror that was not really one we should have been looking into; that we are part of a Third World, and must compare ourselves with others in terms of that Third World; that we should not compare ourselves only with models that are obviously not made for the likes of us, in times such as these; and that such models or characteristics are not the ones that behoove us.

I think that....[changes thought] They always insist on [asking] what it is we desire for the country. I, myself, insist that for the country, here, first and foremost, [the most important thing is] that people understand us; secondly, that they respect us—just as we ourselves understand and respect many who, out in the world, do things with which we might not agree but which we are willing simply to content ourselves with understanding.

I insist on the fact that we would like to effect greater changes—and we could! That is something we have analyzed a great deal in all the meetings and encounters that we have had. If we have not been able to effect greater change—even in the economic sphere, which has already been discussed by Lage, and of course I do not have the background to do so—it has been....[rephrases] To change while blockaded and under pressure is not the same as introducing models and modifications without pressure and without a blockade.

We even have a popular saying here: The possible, we have already done; the impossible, we are doing right now; and for a miracle, you must give Time time!

In any case, we should deal with the characteristics that at present are forcing us to work on the impossible.

Human rights is another of the banners that we have had to carry very forcefully into the sphere of foreign policy. I have even had the privilege of seeing some of you in Vienna, at the World Conference on Human Rights. Several of you asked us how we could show up at such a scene at a time when Cuba was being so greatly criticized.

Well, the truth is that I felt it necessary to go to the conference to discuss problems that were, in my opinion, far more fundamental.

I am not going to answer for 10 or 8 or 15 cases. If it is a matter of cases, I can get a list of all the countries with hundreds, countries that have 200 or 300; such countries would have to answer to us for 200, 300, 400 cases. The number of cases is not the point. Basically, the point is the very highly manipulated manner in which the issue of human rights is being dealt with under discriminatory, selective, and highly politicized criteria.

However, if it is a matter of human rights, then let us worry about the number of human beings there are in this world without any rights! Let us concern ourselves with the right to be human! Let us worry about those human beings who are not aware that they have rights, who can neither read nor write the word "rights"! And once we have spoken of every kind of right, in every country, we will be willing to discuss many things. We are tired, however, of having the world (?turned upside down), of seeing the powerful turn toward the poor, of having 100 percent of the accusations come from the powerful, and of having 100 percent of the accused among the (?poor) and Third World countries.

Thus, the rules of the game—which in our opinion were badly and unjustly set up—needed to be thoroughly discussed. So I think that for us....[changes thought] Few peoples and few [societal] projects in this world have done as much for human rights as have those of this country! A piece of work was begun here [thumps for emphasis] 34 years ago precisely in favor of the human rights of 10 million Cubans. For the human rights of 10 milion Cubans, we have gone all out to defend a [societal] project. [thumps for emphasis] And for the human rights of those millions of Cubans, we are today facing all the difficulties and adversities our country has today.

So nobody needs to give us lessons in human rights. We do not consider ourselves the champion or champions of human rights. We have also been taught that no human

work is perfect. The fact that it is human work ensures that it will be imperfect. So ours is not perfect. But neither is it the way they make it out to be! Furthermore, we will not accept anyone's (?pinning such labels on us).

So, I think it is that, above all else, that we should talk about; and it is with that strength that we went forth to discuss the subject of human rights.

I do not wish to comment on the economic opening or the economic modifications that have already been explained. However, we have had to discuss this extensively abroad. There have been many questions about how to label our system, comments that the Cuban system is 100 percent socialist or that it is 90 percent socialist and 10 percent capitalist. They have begun to look for percentages and tables. Even those who accuse us, citing tables and percentages, and so forth, today want us to give them a breakdown of the composition of the Cuban system in percentages.

If I am asked, I will say that to me, the most important thing is for our system to be Cuban and viable, and for it swiftly to find a solution to our problems and our difficulties. Hence, the modifications that we are beginning today, and that the country is confronting with such bravery.

I do not tire of repeating arguments that you have already heard. Here in the country, we have been making as many or more modifications—let us say as many, rather than more—than those begun by China 10 years ago. Perhaps the only difference is that China did this without a blockade and with [Most] Favored Nation status, and we are doing it in the face of a major blockade. This is a phenomenon that we have also had to face. To this, we must add that we have had to carry out our economic opening in silence. In silence, also, we had to [words indistinct], and Marti also had to carry out certain struggles in silence at a certain time. We have to carry out our economic opening in silence today, because if we do not act quietly, it would be brutally attacked, brutally boycotted, and brutally [pauses] attacked, I reiterate, in an effort to hamper our transactions.

I believe that in this area, I would say that we have nothing to add, that it is not....[pauses] We have to devote all our efforts abroad to deciding how to get our diplomats and technical personnel abroad to work to make this economic opening possible, and to see that all our work abroad is directed toward the priority programs: a process of mixed associations, the tourism that is being promoted, the medical and pharmaceutical industry, and a sugar harvest like the one we have been discussing. [Sentence as heard] We also have to see how our diplomatic apparatus can be put at the service of a very complex economic reality that we need to make more dynamic.

In the area of democratization of international relations and a new order, I wish only to say that our foreign policy activity also includes trying to ensure that the new order is not characterized by the disorder that exists today. There is nothing more disorderly than this new international economic order that is being proposed. Today, we are beginning to hear some highly dangerous terms. We are beginning to hear about limited sovereignty, humanitarian interventions, high commissioners. Even if we could understand what these terms we heard in Vienna mean for some peoples and some nongovernmental organizations: To understand how some supranational structure could solve a country's internal problems, even if this could have some meaning, it would be necessary to note how dangerous it would be for those of us not on the good side of the empire to give an increasingly small group of countries the opportunity to make decisions that in this world are outside the purview of that small group of countries, regardless of their power or resources.

I think it is very important to state that we are being presented with a democratization process that, by virtue of its bases and specific measures, would make very few advances toward democratization. In the economic sphere, if we are talking about a new order, there are three very well-defined poles: Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and North America. The other areas must save themselves however they can. So, what order, what justice, and what equality are we talking about when we use those terms?

What equality could we be talking about in this world [3-second break in reception] the North, which, of course, knows how to use and employ it, while hunger, misery, and desolation go to the South, where we have tens of thousands of years of experience with those things.

As long as the world is divided in this way, between wealth and poverty, we obviously have many things to discuss and many areas in which we have to wage very harsh battles. I believe that in those battles, we will have to take advantage of the Nonaligned Movement, the pronouncements of the UN Charter, and any scenario that becomes available.

Regarding the democratization of the United Nations in particular, it turns out that there is at present a big contradiction. The (?world) is asked to.... [rephrases] the world changes and is rejuvenated, while the United Nations does not. And I think that we should today talk about and argue this matter very forcefully in those terms. Countries cannot be asked for democracy and openness and yet not have democracy and openness reign at the forum where certain things are being discussed using dated rules of the game, and where a Security Council, on which all of us in this world depend, has the right to veto in the way that this right has been established.

I would say that there is nothing in this world that makes us feel more insecure than a Security Council meeting, because we never know what might come out of it. On any given morning, any country might wake up to find itself being bombed due to a simple decision. Obviously,

we need for mankind to be able to sleep in peace, and such a thing cannot be left in the hands of so few countries. Moreover, everyone knows how those Security Council member-countries are manipulated, and by whom.

So I think that indeed we have called very forcefully for—Comrade Fidel himself just urged it very forcefully at the Bahia summit.... [changes thought] We have to democratize. And if it is a matter of democratization, let's start by teaching hard lessons: Let's talk about the democratization of that Security Council, where 400 million Latin Americans do not have a single representative. But it is not only the Latin Americans. It is also the African world, and the.... [rephrases] that goes for all parts of the world, a world in which the United Nations has doubled, or maybe even tripled, yet the Security Council remains unchanged, and has not been brought up to date to the same extent that the United Nations (?has grown). We know that the battle (?is not) a difficult one. We also know that for starters we want to be able to discuss in the Security Council the right to veto, a bunch of decisions.

This is not a battle to be tackled by a single country, and in which our interest does not lie in setting ourselves up as the main protagonist. Our interest lies in denouncing a phenomenom that does all of us a lot of harm and I think we should, for that reason, all participate in fighting. So I think this is something we should argue very forcefully.

You have been.... [rephrases] and you talked about.... [rephrases] when it was said that we could go deeper, I do not think there is much more to say about the need for Latin American integration and integration with the Caribbean [words indistinct]. I think that Cuba needs such integration more than ever; and like never before, America needs to integrate. Not to Cuba. Just to integrate. I think that today all possibilities are open. There are also paths, and we would say perhaps clear [despejados] problems, that allow us to go through an integration that, although it may still, at the present time, be very complex economically in Latin America, we could.... [changes thought] and the basic proposal that took us to Bahia was: How can we come up with concrete [reales] proposals for integration? And if we cannot integrate economically because of how weak the Latin American economies are, and above all because how dependent we still are, let's integrate through projects having to do with education, culture, science, medicine, pharmacy, and many other things that we have here in Cuba which America needs, as well as through many things that Cuba needs which America has.

So I think that, to this same extent, we also laid out the possibilities clearly. Indeed, as to economic investments, the fundamental priorities have been established for Latin America and the Caribbean—to which we belong—and therefore, it is a matter of either taking advantage of the moment or else letting it slip by. And this happens to be the best of times to invest in Cuba.

The need to integrate—not just in order to solve o common problems but also in order to, united, confro those who wish to use us as their backyard—is, of cours highly interesting for us.

There are even much more positive signs in the Cari bean. We are beginning to see important signals Caricom, in the integration of that Caribbean Comm nity. We think the steps that have been taken should responded to, and, of course, responded to in that wa

Someone asked about the Bahia summit. I think th there are, of course, people far better prepared than m to talk about the summit. Since I was asked, howeve and since it falls to me: I think the most important thi about the summit [was] our continuing to meet witho asking anyone for permission to do so, to contin meeting without being called upon to do so by t empire, to continue meeting without an alien presence the house. I think that in itself is valuable.

The talk has begun on whether or not we should increa the amount of time set aside for the meetings. In m opinion, what is much more important is to consolida that movement, to leave established a relationship- which I think is still not consolidated today, at t present time—and to have the possibility of these thing that they have been doing, which are increasing, n dying, and at least not cooling off. It was with that mind that we went to Bahia.

We also meant to arrive in Bahia with the intention not allowing the summit to be just one more summit fu of speeches. Life has shown us that speeches do not bri about Latin American integration. Our delegation insistence on taking responsibility for ensuring that th did not occur—by means of concrete projects and pr posals—was because of warnings, made in Cuba ba when we were preparing for the summit, to the effect th we did not want just speeches saying, in whatev language, that the rich are becoming increasingly rich and the poor increasingly poorer! We are tired knowing that only too well—especially we the poor! A the rich, well, they are not too tired of having peop remind them of this.

Obviously, explaining things does not help us. This why we wanted to move forward with concrete proposa for integration, and did not want the summit to rema just a summit of intentions. We did not want it to be o of those summits where whatever is accomplished w accomplished only on paper but rather, in my opinion, summit at which we would achieve a desire to ta action; and from which everyone would emerge with th idea of taking concrete steps toward democratizatio and integration. To have placed the emphasis on soci development; to have placed emphasis, for example, o the next summit's focusing on the economy and o economic integration proper, helps us move forward- although we are aware, friends, that what we have n resolved over a period of many years is not going to b resolved in a mere two or three summits. It is not goi

to be solved....[changes thought] Besides, the problem is too serious to be solved in a single summit. If problems could be solved in a single summit, we would see them held more frequently, so as to solve the problem (?at the meeting itself).

I think this is something we stated up very forcefully. I think that to have rescued the spirit that brought us together in the Guadalajara meeting—and not having been part of a happening [acontecimiento], which is what we were in Madrid—helps us, of course. And I think that that is also the spirit in which we must hold future summits.

I am asked a lot about attacks...[rephrases] or, I wouldn't quite say attacks but rather talks, mediators and things like that, private initiatives that came up at the summit related to whether or not there was a desire to hold a meeting with us—whether or not there was a desire to have, with us, a possible exchange so as to offer to act as mediator.

We went to the summit for something much more serious and having to do with far greater responsibility.

Cuba did not go to the summit to seek mediators. The problems between Cuba and the United States are far too serious to be seeking to employ mediators of such little stature. We did not need to go out looking for mediators. Nor do we need private mediators. I can understand, since there are so many things being privatized in that country, that it is part of a private initiative; and it was, of course, presented as a private initiative—but of course exactly where the desire to privatize it lay was not said. Obviously, we do not think that is the way to tackle our problems; therefore, I reiterate: We had too many things, too many priorities, and too many matters to look into at the summit to be running around getting involved in things that were not among our priorities, and, above all, not in our interests.

At the present time, friends, it is also part of our foreign policy to organize the growing mov...[leaves word unfinished; rephrases] I mean, friends, to organize and, to be more precise, contribute to not placing obstacles in the path of the growing movement of solidarity that has sprung up worldwide in connection with our country. [This movement has sprung up] No longer because our system [modelo] is or isn't shared but rather out of a desire to see respected the way in which Cuba, speaking for itself and with dignity, is facing up to times such as these.

Merely having proven all the predictions wrong...[changes thought] They said we would fall in 1989, and then in 1990, and then in 1991. Now, these days, there is a new theory. They are now saying we will fall in from three to five years.

Well, Cuba continues to exist in the face of each of these new theories. And it seems to me that this awakens feelings of solidarity that should be met with a much fresher, quicker, (?nimbler) response from our diplomatic personnel abroad and our offensive from the [Foreign] Ministry.

Certain comrades asked about relations with the EEC. I think that, for reasons there is no point in stopping to discuss right now, the said relations were interrupted at a given moment because of ideas we do not share and over which there were disagreements. And unfortunately, it was decided to interrupt the said relations. Today as never before, not only the interest but also the conditions for that communication to be re-established exist. And we, of course, are clear on the fact that we consider the EEC an important part of the world, in the economic and political domains proper. Not only do we think we should; we are absolutely convinced that we must, make good use of the opportunity. Quite a number of steps are being taken, and I think that, in short, our side too has many things to explain.

I think, Comrades, that these are the main lines, I reiterate, in order to be able to, of course, devote ourselves to certain of the matters you may want to talk about specifically, but...[rephrases] These are some of the basic things that characterize the foreign policy of the Cuban Revolution at the present time. And I reiterate: This is a policy whose intention it is—and this is something we consider fundamental—to solve the problem of how to carry this voice, this reality, the way in which our people is today facing this difficult situation, before the most complicated of all tribunals. We need for this to be understood, conveyed, and stated very forcefully.

It is very important to convey abroad a new language—not that the language, or the people talking, are actually new. Rather because what is new is the moment the Revolution is going through. And because the moment the Revolution is going through is new, and because this is the moment we have to face and discuss, we consider that there is no challenge more important than that of getting the truth [realidad] of this moment out to the outside world.

We do not want people to interpret this new language as new people and ideas. I would say that the new ideas come, above all, from the new circumstances and the new reality. The big challenge facing all us generations that have in one way or another participated in the social project that the Revolution constitutes is to, like the generations that effected the Revolution that were capable of rising to the occasion and meeting the needs of their times, at moments such as these, we ourselves, too, must be capable of rising to the occasion and meeting the needs of this time which falls to us—a time that is a very difficult and high complex time.

I have heard this discussed very forcefully here. And in these few months that I have been in the Ministry, I have had to address the matter myself, also very forcefully.

You, however, have, as never before, made reference to the dignity with which Cuba is confronting this period.

In my country, reference is constantly being made to the dignity with which Cuba performed at the Moncada [Garrison], in the Sierra [Maestra], and on the Granma [yacht], as well as to the dignity with which we Cubans are tackling the current times.

We ourselves, too, are constantly marveling at the dignity with which Latin America faces up to [se enfrenta] its difficult situation, to the extent that the said situation can be faced up to. And I myself, have found myself, in times like these, needing greatly to resort to a predecessor and maestro of foreign policy (?Ricardo) Roa, known to us Cubans as the foreign minister of dignity.

Precisely because you have spoken so much of the dignity of the Cuban people, and because we have such grea. respect for the dignity of Latin America, and because of such great respect for the dignity of the current moment, I prefer to simply end my speech with something that Roa said, which I prefer to repeat.

Roa said: We are emulators of [Simon] Bolivar, [Benito] Juarez, and [Jose] Marti [Bolivarianos, Juaristas, y Martianos], and for that reason, we do not feel removed from anything that may happen in our America. We are fully convinced that a brilliant future awaits us. Therefore, we today face up to, joyfully and with heads held high, hardships, acts of malice, and adversities. Victory shall belong to those who have confidence in our peoples' inexhaustible supply of virtues. Our fatherlands will someday constitute—as the guides we have invoked dreamed—a single, great, free, united, prosperous, and happy, common suprafatherland [sobrepatria].

For my part: Thank you very much, friends. [applause]

I am available to answer your questions. There are several of us here ready to answer your questions.

[Commentator] One of the Forum participants asked Robaina about the democratization of the United Nations.

[Robaina] I am going to talk about Vienna. [Unintelligible comment by another speaker] He is asking who posed that question? Please raise your hand to see who it was.

Regarding the Security Council and the democratization and role of the United Nations, I believe we have here someone with much more experience who is going to help us answer the question and who could explain to us not only Cuba's position but also the manner in which-....[changes thought] Because this is not a new battle but a battle that has been going on for a long while and which I believe is still very far from our goals.

Regarding Vienna, we wanted to discuss with intensity the whole phenomenon of human rights and economic, social rights and the right to development which occupied an important place not only in the final declaration but also in the debate. We think that the essential success of Vienna was having been able to halt a gigantic maneuver—not even in the way we believe it should have been completely halted [as heard]—the creation of structures and supranational organizations to allow the taking of decision on anywhere where they believed rights were being violated and the creation of high commissioners and international courts.

I believe the main effort was aimed toward this discussion and we managed to postpone it. When I said postpone I mean continue searching more arguments because there were also difficulties with the manner certain representatives and nongovernmental organizations of Latin America and the Third World, who adamantly insisted on debating this issue, understood this issue. We do not believe it was a step backward. I think important things were accomplished in Vienna. I think that above all it is a matter of seeing how we prepare for the global summit on human rights that we have to attend soon and how to prepare so that the issue of development, in a discussion which was postponed for the United Nations, is confronted in a broader discussion than that of the Vienna summit. We want to continue arguing intensely and continue to produce strong statements regarding the negation of the right to development and economic and social right. We do not want other rights brought forth as priorities when in our opinion the right to life, the right to be alive and develop is presently facing such a dire situation in so many countries.

I believe we are progressing along this path. I do not believe it was a step backward. I believe that in the end important progress was made. In our opinion, what is much more important is the discussion awaiting us at the United Nations and the great debate on this issue in the global summit in 1994.

Afterwards, we participated in a meeting of the UN Social and Economic Development Commission, where this issue of social and economic development was also debated very strongly with the participation of our countries and specific proposals. I believe we have still much ground to cover, and many debates ahead. Not only debates but rather proposals. On this, unfortunately, there is still not....[changes thought] In the same manner, the powerful nations have come together, unfortunately, the opinion of the poor is more divided.

One of the things we had to face in Vienna was how to reach a consensus to face with more strength this debate. This was not always achieved although finally we achieved something to open the conference so that it would not conclude in the manner that it was about to conclude.

[Alarcon] The comrade was asking about Cuba's position regarding the UN Security Council. I believe this has been reiterated in a consistent manner, the most recent being Fidel's speech in Bahia. For years, Cuba—along with other Third World countries that share this position—has been stating as an essential thing the need to abolish, eliminate the so-called right to veto. Of course, this is not easy. To eliminate the vote means to amend

the UN Charter and the principle of veto applies to the amendment of the Charter. In other words, all the permanent members of the Security Council have to be in agreement. This is one of the most complex problems to solve for this reason. In addition to this, Fidel stated in Bahia that meanwhile, until the most radical changes are achieved to democratize the organization, there is a need to expand the membership of the Security Council so that it proportionally reflects the membership of the United Nations.

Remember that when the UN Charter was signed there were exactly 50 member states and today there are almost 200. During all this period—almost half a century—the council was expanded only once, 30 years ago when it went from 11 to 15 members in an effort to reflect the UN membership which by then had increased to 100 member states. Now, it has once again doubled yet the 15 member council continues but with another irritant: the lack of proportional geographical representation.

There is a principle in the United Nations: equal geographical representation. It is used in all organs, meetings, presidential tables at conferences, and from the credentials committee to the presidency of the assembly there is proportional repartition among geographic regions in accordance to the number of its members, except in the Security Council. In the Security Council, there are two Latin American states, two African States despite the fact that Africa comprises almost one third of the UN membership, and Latin America as much as all Europe. There are several nonpermanent European members in addition to three permanent European members: Russia, France, and the United Kingdom.

Expanding the total membership of the Security Council would permit a more adequate representation and result in more democracy because it would force the superpowers to work harder because the five permanent members are only one third of the total membership. They also have several close allies. Not only do they have the privilege of the veto but this makes it very easy for them to impose their opinions.

Fidel has said that for the time being, while those radical changes are not possible, the total membership and the number of permanent members of the council should be increased—he said tripled—to have two permanent members from Latin America and the Caribbean, two from Africa, and likewise from other regions. In this manner there would be a certain balance in relation to the countries of the North and Europe that prevail nowadays.

Fidel also mentioned another element that Cuba has been debating very strongly, particularly several years ago: the issue of the relation between the Council and the General Assembly. Fidel said that at least, the Council has to fulfill its duty of accounting for its actions before the General Assembly. This is a very important principle because if you examine the UN Charter, you will see that several articles establish that the Assembly has the obligation of receiving regular reports on the activities of the Security Council, and that the Security Council is required to report its activities to the General Assembly. In other words, although there are several main bodies in the United Nations, the only one that receives an accounting of the actions of all the others is the General Assembly, the one organ where all the members of the organizations are represented and have equal rights.

In practice, in accordance with the development of the New World Order, the Security Council has become more undemocratic each day. This being not only basic aspects such as the right to veto and its limited composition but also because of its work methods. Cuba has stated since 1990 that with regard to the Security Council, there is a need to make its activities more open and transparent.

I will give you an example: The report of the Council to the Assembly is a secret document, the meeting in which the Council approves its report to the Assembly is a secret meeting in which no one but Council members can participate. This is the first sign of the character of a body that is usurping in fact the function of the main body, the General Assembly. The Charter says that to guarantee peace and security and in order to take decision expediently, the members give special responsibilities to a representative group. These are the members of the Security Council.

Notice how the power, the authority of the members of the Council arises from the authority delegated, conferred by the Assembly so that they may act on their behalf. This is what that article says. Further on it says: It has to report to them.

I can tell you that one of the most interesting and newest things we discovered when we integrated the Council following a long absence, is that the greatest portion of the Council activities take place in secret. We once commented that it took place in secret and at night. The meetings are generally called informal. They take place in a small room where the members meet and where no records are kept, with no witnesses, the media, or other UN members. Fewer and fewer public, official meetings are conducted by the Council. The meetings are not announced. There is no idea what they are meeting for. You see in the press reports that this or that decision was taken, even military actions, in a Council meeting. Do not think that this was a meeting in the formal hall of the Council before stenographers, reporters, and witnesses. These meetings take place in a small room on the side of the main hall where without witnesses and records for history, all these important decisions are taken. I believe that a 1 percent of the activities to the Council are held publicly. What has been done afterwards is not even known.

In this regard, we achieved progress as dramatic as getting them to announce over the public address system that the Council was going to meet and inviting the

delegates to come to the Council hall so at least people know there is a meeting and for the UN newspaper to carry what decisions or accords were taken in those informal, private meetings.

There is an example that showed me how this world has changed. You might remember that what is possibly the longest debate in the United Nations was that of the legitimate rights of the PRC. The PRC is one of the founding members of the United Nations and a permanent member of the Council. It is well known that a few years after the creation of the United Nations, the revolution emerged in the PRC. There was a radical change of government and from that point on a great debate began. This debate concluded 20 years later when the General Assembly determined that the PRC is the true representative of the Chinese state in Beijing instead of the regime in Taiwan.

I was in that small room on a December night when we all were commenting what was going to happen when it was announced that the USSR no longer existed. The belief among the delegates was that an extremely complex debate was about to ensue to determine who was the representative of what the Charter calls the USSR. Technically speaking this was more complex that the Chinese case because in the case of the PRC it was only a case of change in political orientation. In the case of the USSR, it was becoming several states and theoretically each could claim the continuity of their positions as was done later with Yugoslavia. When Yugoslavia fell apart, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia claimed its right to maintain its representation and it was the western countries, as well as Croatia and Slovenia who claimed to have the same right. But the change from USSR to Russia which meant changing the name on the table—the members of the Council found out about it when we arrived that December night and looked at the presidential table, because they were the president of the meeting, and where it always read USSR, now it read CIS. The name, constitution, and character of the country was changed and it was not even discussed beyond certain consultations among the permanent members.

I believe that basically, what Cuba has been stating has been the need to change all this from the roots. If we aspire to democratize international relations, there cannot be a body that is still formed on the basis of privileges.

In addition, another example that Fidel stressed: Since they speak so much of democracy, it would be good that at least once the members of the permanent council-....[pause] very soon they would have been there for half a century discharging these enormous responsibilities and privileges and have never gone through the test of elections by the General Assembly. The nature of things and political orientations have changed and this has never happened. This is another element which we have stated. However, as long as such comprehensive changes are not possible it seems to us that there are certain things which are more obtainable; such as expanding the membership in correspondence with the growth of the organization it says it represents and within this expansion, the expansion of the permanent members so that it stops being an exclusively northern, European representation and give participation to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. [Words indistinct] to render account to the General Assembly and for this Assembly to be able to discuss and analyze each time what happens in the council.

It seems to me that this body is usurping a whole series of illegal powers, attributions, and rights and things as those we read in the newspaper everyday are being done.

Fidel Castro Elected Delegate to CDR Congress

FL3107165893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] The delegates from the city of Havana to the fourth congress of the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] have expressed their unanimous support for the statements made by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at the ceremony closing the festivities of the 40th anniversary of the Moncada Garrison attack. The 250 representatives from the capital sent Castro a message in which they ratify the decision to press forward and to defend the Revolution. They also elected Fidel a Havana City Province delegate to the [upcoming CDR] congress.

Julio Cesar (Bormay), who is CDR provincial coordinator in the capital, said that once the base-level process in the various zones and municipalities is completed, the province will be entering the final phase [of preparations] for next September's congress. He said delegates are going to split up into work groups to discuss and find solutions to problems having to do with vigilance, the politico-ideological work, economizing energy sources, and support for economic tasks.

Castro Meets With German Parliament Delegation

FL3107181693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Members of the delegation headed by Hans Klein, vice president of the German parliament, were received by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, with whom they had an extensive talk, during which opinions and information on topics of mutual interest were exchanged in an open and cordial atmosphere. Mr. Klein was accompanied by Bavarian parliament member (Ernst Mirz); Dr. (Reinhold Gebhardt), deputy director of the (Hans Heidolf) Foundation; and Mr. (Dieter Mosser), this foundation's representative in Latin America.

The commander in chief also received Professor (Lothar Diskiy), president of Germany's Party of Democratic Socialism, who came to our country to attend the fourth meeting of the Sao Paulo Forum.

At this meeting, which took place in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere, the two leaders discussed matters connected with the recently ended forum of leftist parties of Latin America, as well as other matters of interest.

Delegation Concludes Visit

FL3007191193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Hans Klein, vice president of the German Parliament, and the delegation accompanying him will conclude their visit to Cuba today. Klein and his delegation are visiting Cuba at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. [passage omitted]

During the seminar on participatory democracy, Klein gave a speech in which he said that we live in a time of change. Klein went on to say that through his impressive interviews with Cuban leaders, he knew that they were determined to succeed in the changes that they have undertaken. Klein stated: I am convinced of that.

This is Mr. Klein's second visit to Cuba and, according to his own words, it is designed to extend relations between the two countries because Cuba is also a point of attention during these times. Klein added: That is why I am thankful for the invitation extended by the ANPP.

Fidel Castro Greets Caravan Members at Airport

FL0208013893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Excerpts] [Word indistinct] Members of the U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan were met at Jose Marti International Airport by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, who wanted to hear how the caravan's trip went from day one, as well as about the 13 caravan members who are still in Laredo. [Crowd chants: "Cuba yes; blockade no."]

[Begin recording] [Castro] But it was not mentioned over television. I do not know how they might have taken his words very well. I understood: a few days, two weeks, two months. But it seemed to me that what he was trying to say was that he was there and that he would remain there as long as is necessary. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The members of the U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan will remain in Cuba until 7 August. During their stay, they will participate in different activities that will afford them direct contact with the population of Cuba.

Further on Caravan Members

FL0208140993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro welcomed some 260 members of the Solidarity With Cuba caravan who arrived in Cuba on 1 August. Castro thanked them for their solidarity toward the island.

The Cuban president embraced Gail Walker, daughter of Reverend Lucius Walker, founder of the Pastors for Peace organization, who is on a voluntary hunger strike along with 13 other people inside a bus on the U.S.-Mexican border.

Fidel Castro said reports on the progress of the caravan have been followed in Cuba with great interest. He described the U.S. customs police refusal to allow a vehicle to cross the border as absurd. The vehicle is intended for social use by a Baptist Church in Havana.

The head of the Revolution said the caravan's effort was a brave, worthy, and effective gesture. He added that it is the proper way to combat the embargo at this time.

In addition, Castro told the caravan coordinators that the Cuban people feel great affection for them all and consider them members of the Cuban family.

Previously, Gail Walker had released a message received from her father shortly before she left for Cuba. In the message, Walker said the hunger strike is being carried out with the full conviction that it is an appropriate reply to U.S. Government actions.

The 100 tons of products collected by the caravan is three times the amount donated last year. It will arrive in Cuba on 7 August in conjunction with the donation being sent by the Mexican Yes for Cuba organization.

Meet With Alarcon

FL0208220693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1935 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has met with members of the U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan that arrived from Mexico on Sunday. During the meeting held at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples, Alarcon highly praised the caravan's solidarity toward the Cuban people as a challenge to the blockade imposed by the United States.

Alarcon stressed that in addition to the specific material supplies, the moral support becomes, above all, an encouragement to continue fighting and resisting the difficulties Cuba is facing. Alarcon added that in these times, when many underscore the primacy of individualism and privatization, the Cuban people are trying to preserve the conviction of the value of human beings, and faith in mankind and its undeniable potential.

Alarcon added: We view as extraordinary the attitude of the members of the Pastors for Peace caravan who are conducting a hunger strike headed by Lucius Walker, the founder of this humanitarian movement.

The caravan collected aid for Cuba through 120 cities. Alarcon praised the behavior of those men who continue affirming that higher than the unfair laws of the blockade are other more important laws such as the power derived from human solidarity and fraternity, so highly

appraised by the Cuban people. Alarcon also explained the real situation of Cuba, and the economic measures being implemented to preserve the accomplishments of the Revolution.

Rigoberta Menchu Visits at Government Invitation

FL3107182593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Rigoberta Menchu, a Nobel Prize winner and indefatigable fighter for the rights of indigenous peoples, has arrived in Havana in response to an invitation from the Cuban Government. Menchu, who is also a United Nations ambassador, has been recognized internationally for her dignity (?and) her defense of the Indians of our continent, especially those found among the Guatemalan people.

As of Monday, Rigoberta will carry out an extensive program of visits, which include the [word indistinct] and the William Soler Hospital.

Meets With Fidel Castro

FL0308232593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 2220 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Cuba's situation, the blockade, and short-term concerns were the main topics discussed by Rigoberta Menchu during a meeting with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at the presentation ceremony of the Ana Betancourt Order last night.

During a news conference at the International Press Center on 3 August for foreign and domestic reporters, Rigoberta Menchu said she described to Fidel the work being done at the regional level concerning indigenous peoples. She also spoke about the Second Indigenous Summit scheduled for October in Mexico and about the International Year of the Indigenous Peoples, an event she described as important but insufficient. She is therefore advocating the declaration of the Decade of the Indigenous Peoples before the United Nations.

During a visit to Casa de las Americas, Rigoberta Menchu participated in a panel during which she stated that the struggle of women to defend their rights takes place under unequal conditions. She added: Of all the places in the world that I have visited, nowhere has female emancipation been achieved. Among other subjects, Rigoberta Menchu also discussed literature and indigenous subjects.

Alarcon Accompanies on Tour

FL0308020093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Our visit has become a great opportunity to discuss how we might contribute to Cuba's and its people's cause despite the limitations imposed by the world in which we live. This was a statement this afternoon by Nobel Peace Prize recipient Rigoberta Menchu during a meeting at the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Following the welcome by acting Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez- Parodi, Menchu added: Despite these limitations, indigenous peoples have an historic authority that allows us to see the end of this century and to witness many abuses and injustices. [sentence as heard] This is why we have a desire to talk a bit about future work. We have felt the support of the Cuban people, its experts and diplomats in the United Nations supporting the cause of indigenous peoples. It is good to reaffirm this on the occasion of the international decade:

[Begin recording] Lately, we have been fighting to expand the Year of Indigenous Peoples. The International Year was a conquest for the indigenous people themselves, but a year is too short for solving the problems faced by the indigenous peoples, because these are part of global problems. We would like to expand the International Year to a decade. We are optimistic because the Vienna World Conference advocated the declaration for the indigenous peoples' decade before the UN General Assembly. [end recording]

Today, Menchu laid a wreath at the Jose Marti monument in Revolution Square and visited the William Soler Pediatric Hospital and La Guinera neighborhood in the company of Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, member of the Politburo and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. Tonight, the distinguished representative of the indigenous peoples will receive the Ana Betancourt Order.

Remirez Speaks With UN Latin American, Caribbean Group

FL3007191093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Fernando Remirez, Cuban first vice minister of foreign relations, explained to the UN Group for Latin American and the Caribbean the recent decisions taken by the our government. Remirez pointed out that Cuba is adopting several measures that are in harmony with the changing economic situation and that respond to the need to confront the island's current difficulties.

Remirez explained the reasons that provoked the authorization of Cuban citizens' having foreign currencies. He also talked about actions that the Cuban Government plans to take during the next UN General Assembly with regard to the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

You will recall that the last UN General Assembly approved a resolution calling on the United States to revoke its invocation of extraterritorial jurisdiction to impose its economic, trade, and financial blockade on Cuba.

Fernando Remirez received several demonstrations of solidarity with the Cuban people and met with high-ranking officials of the world organization. He exchanged ideas with numerous representatives of member states of the United Nations.

Equatorial Guinean Prime Minister Siale Bileka Arrives

FL0208013093 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Silvestre Siale Bileka, prime minister of Equatorial Guinea, arrived this afternoon at the invitation of the Cuban Government. Siale will head the Equatorial Guinean delegation to the inaugural session of the First Joint Economic, Science, and Technology Cooperation Commission which begins on 2 August at the Foreign Trade Ministry building. Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, greeted him.

Robaina Voices Hope for 'Deepened' Relations With Bolivia

FL0308125893 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived in La Paz, Bolivia on 2 August to participate in the 6 August inaugural ceremonies of new Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

In statements made at the Bolivian airport, Robaina noted and expressed special appreciation of the firm position taken by outgoing President Jaime Paz Zamora at the recent Third Ibero-American Summit. On that occasion, Paz Zamora called for respect for the Cuban people's right to self-determination and criticized the U.S. blockade to which Cuba has been subjected for over 30 years.

Regarding the future Bolivian administration under Sanchez de Lozada, of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, the Cuban foreign minister said he hopes the serious, responsible relations that currently exist between the two nations will be deepened.

Alarcon, Machado Ventura Install Judicial Officials

FL0108212893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], today installed the new Supreme People's Tribunal and the Attorney General of the Republic, during a ceremony in which outstanding, retiring, sector workers also received decorations.

At the ceremony held today in Havana to install the president, vice presidents, and professional and lay judges of the Supreme People's Tribunal and the attorney general and his deputy attorneys, Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura said: We attach great importance to the population's views regarding the social impact of the legal decisions handed down by the tribunals.

Machado pointed out, furthermore, that although these people should not take action based on what the society might say or think, it is nevertheless their duty to take advantage of the broad framework for sanctions that the law gives them to apply severe measures when the society's best interests require it. He also said that judicial decisions cannot, at any given time, be removed from the economic, social, and political reality of any given country.

[Begin Machado recording] The conditions of the special period unquestionably place the people's tribunals and the Office of the Attorney General before a challenge: to take action and confront—employing, as weapon, the law—all those who, driven by greed, may try to profit from the situation at the expense of the working masses, attempting to become wealthy through economic crimes and other illegal activities. [end recording]

At the last ordinary session of the ANPP, and in keeping with its attributions, the ANPP chose Jose Raul Amaro Salup president of the Supreme People's Tribunal, and also chose and ratified the vice presidents and other members of the said tribunal. Juan Escalona Reguera was ratified as attorney general of the Republic, as were his deputy attorneys.

Spanish Scientists Link Neuropathy Cause to Toxic Agent

FL0108203693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] (Geraldo Rodriguez Farre) of Barcelona's Higher Center for Scientific Research and (Ignacio Arauitia) of the Spanish Health Ministry's Sanitary Research Fund have just made public a report after spending two weeks in Cuba. They affirm in the report that the optic neuritis is caused by a toxic agent.

According to a report today in the Spanish daily paper EL PAIS today, the two specialists visited 10 Cuban hospitals and had access to all the information available, and do not think nutritional problems or viruses have been the cause of the epidemic. Rather, they think the cause has been an external, toxic agent, possibly a chemical one.

In their thesis, the scientists insist that it is a matter of a chemical lesion, and that the problem now consists of identifying the agent that caused it. In this connection, they say that over 50 chemical products that cause this type of neuropathy have been identified, among them certain pesticides that have already caused similar epidemics in Pakistan and India in the past.

The scientists reject the idea that the disease could be of viral origin, arguing that the epidemic has not been seen

to spread through family groups and that, while there has been a high incidence of the disease in certain towns, in others, located right next to those affected, there have been only a few cases.

The researchers reject the hypothesis that the affliction could be due to nutritional deficiencies, because if it were due to a lack of certain vitamins or nutrients, it would have affected all regions—or, in any case, have affected fewer people in the rural areas than in Havana.

Commentary Views Castro's 26 Jul Speech, Economic Reforms

PA3007163593 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The Cubans, who wondered on the streets what would be the new measures that the Cuban State could adopt to survive, had a response on 26 July when President Fidel Castro made reference to those measures and others currently under consideration.

The Cuban president made it clear that the Communist Party and Cuban Government are able to adapt the existing political project to the new times, showing that its alleged inflexibility is false.

The elimination of penalties on the possession of foreign currency, which was announced on 26 July, is added to other decisions adopted previously, such as the promotion of tourism and foreign investments. These activities, though they do not generate direct and immediate benefits to all the population, provide long term benefits. These are internal measures aimed at achieving, at any rate, Cuba's incorporation into the present context of international relations, following the drastic alterations caused by the closing of markets in the defunct socialist bloc.

It is imperative to create conditions for the recovery of production and the economic reactivation of Cuba. To this end, the organization of the economy and finances should be applied realistically. Cuba must adapt itself to the existing market laws. Therefore, the population cannot ignore this situation. However, to achieve this end, it would be necessary to establish mechanisms capable of promoting certain privileges.

The Cuban Government is also determined to control the excess of Cuban currency in order to assign it its real value, which has been so far depreciated in the black market. Other incentive measures could also be adopted in the future for production, when the country's resources permit.

The comprehensive explanation made on 26 July by President Fidel Castro marking the 40th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks was not merely coincidental. On such a special occasion, Cubans are accustomed to pausing to reflect on the past and to redefining guidelines for the future. The primary objective of the island's authorities is that Cubans learn and understand the new measures. The authorities chose not to adopt these measures abruptly, without an advance explanation.

Logically, the measures will initially conflict with the model of hope that the revolutionary process created over three decades, but this is unavoidable. Although they may be termed an apparent setback, the decisions explained on 26 July do not eliminate suddenly the levels of equality, security, and justice that prevail in Cuban society, which has now been pressured to decide between perfection and rationality.

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities 23 Jul to 30 Jul

FL3007184993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 23 July and 30 July.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 on 23 July reports that Esteban Lazo urged people to be more objective concerning the 26 July in Santiago de Cuba when he participated in a meeting to evaluate celebration preparations there.

Radio Rebelde at 1155 GMT on 24 July reports that Esteban Lazo participated in a ceremony in Palma Soriano to mark 26 July.

Radio Rebelde at 1155 GMT on 26 July reports that Alfredo Hondal, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Ciego de Avila Province, chaired the provincial ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the Moncada attack. During the ceremony, the efforts of workers to complete 11 projects were acknowledged. In his closing remarks, Hondal pointed out the capacity of Ciego de Avila residents to overcome difficulties and to move ahead.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 29 July reports that German parliamentary vice president Hans Klein met with Jose Ramon Balaguer. Balaguer spoke of the people's participation in the government and the election process.

Commentary on Need To Increase Foreign Currency Revenues

PA3007234193 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The increase of foreign currency revenues is such a vital need for Cuba that the government has decided to redefine its economic course by increasing the opening process that has been going on for several years on the island.

At the risk that some of the decisions made may create privileges and be viewed with anger, Cuban authorities announced the elimination of sanctions on the possession of U.S. dollars and other convertible foreign currencies. Other decisions made increase the number of visitor permits issued to Cubans residing abroad, increase opportunities for foreign capital, promote production and services that generate foreign currency revenues, and increase tourist facilities.

It is true that the access of only part of the population to stores that will sell in U.S. dollars will disturb those who are unable to obtain foreign currency. But Cuban authorities trust that this measure will be understood in the long run because the country's future is at stake at this juncture.

The very same Cuban leaders have admitted their uneasiness at having to make concessions such as opening an international bid for petroleum exploration at the company's risk.

The high-ranking officials and the Cuban people got used to three decades of social equality and special and distant treatment by foreign companies. But today's world, controlled by the United States, forces us to redefine the rules of the game. To this, one must add Cuba's serious economic situation following the disappearance of the socialist bloc and [four-second break in reception] are connected to the weather and the outbreak of a neuritis epidemic.

Following a meager sugar harvest, which yielded only 4.2 million metric tons, the country failed to generate $1.7 billion to pay for imports for the rest of the year. If Cuba cannot generate that amount to purchase fuel, food, and vital medicine, it then becomes necessary to make pragmatic decisions and seek foreign currency through any legal means, even if this means going against the actions of over three decades.

The capacity of Cubans to adapt to these new and unfair international economic relations is being tested. The survival of Cuba's political process will depend on this. Our confidence that this alternative exists will permit us to assimilate the internal measures announced recently.

Official Explains New Economic Measures at United Nations

FL3107001893 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Cuban First Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Remirez said at the United Nations that Cuba is adopting various measures in line with the changing economic situation worldwide. In explaining the basic aspects of Cuba's foreign policy to the Latin American and Caribbean countries at the United Nations, Remirez said recent decisions adopted in Havana were made in response to the need to cope with the difficulties currently being faced on the island.

The first vice foreign minister, who is on a working visit to the United Nations, discussed the problems Cuba is facing and explained why it was necessary to authorize Cuban citizens to have foreign exchange, among other things.

The vice minister also told the Latin American and Caribbean ambassadors about the actions that Cuba plans to take at the next UN General Assembly with regard to the U.S. blockade.

Las Tunas Projected Food Production Unprecedented

FL3107165593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Council of Ministers Vice President Adolfo Diaz has affirmed that Las Tunas Province has created the conditions necessary to allow it to soon become self-sufficient in tubers, milk, vegetables, and other agricultural products. At a meeting at the end of a work visit to the province—a meeting over which Alfredo Hondal, a Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Las Tunas Province, also presided—Diaz pointed out that this eastern province will this year produce close to 1.5 million quintals of tubers and vegetables, as well as over 30 million liters of milk, figures that are unprecedented.

It was also announced that the fishfarming yield will reach some 1,500 tons this year, and that progress is being made in cane recovery, food self-sufficiency in families and at work centers, production within the food industry, and other fronts linked to the food program in general.

'Extreme Measures' Ordered at Holguin Food Storage Sites

FL0208154993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Francisco Garcia Ferrer, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Holguin, has ordered the adoption of extreme measures in places where food is stored before (?distribution) to prevent supplies from going to the black market. In checking the results of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System [SUVP], the party leader noted the need for systematic reviews of workers guard units and state guard units and for night patrol rosters to be complete.

During an evaluation, it was also noted that many criminal activities occurred because of a lack of controls, and a lack of demanding supervision in the protection system.

Combating burglary, (?murder), assault and robbery, and bicycle theft are priority tasks assigned to SUVP members to ensure that crime does not go unpunished.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 26 Jul to 31 Jul

FL0208012493

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 26 July and 31 July.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 26 July reports that a telephone center was inaugurated in Holguin Province in salute to the Moncada Anniversary. The center, in Calixto Garcia Municipality, is able to handle 80 lines. Rebelde also report that Holguin constructions workers completed the 4.7 km water channel of Limoncito Dam to irrigate 22 caballerias in Baguano Municipality.

Radio Rebelde also reports that measures have been taken to guarantee the supplies required for the forthcoming school year through national campaigns to collect pencils and notebooks. Education Minister Luis Ignacio Gomez comments that new books are not being published because of wellknown paper and printing limitations. Available used books have to be treated with care.

Radio Reloj at 1533 GMT on 27 July reports that exports from the Isle of Youth have shown "a substantial increase so far this year," reaching over 15.5 million pesos. The increase is mainly due to the opening of a new production line at the marble complex, which is now processing "verde serrano" marble from Villa Clara. Lobster and bonito well in excess of the plan have also been caught. Tourism too continues to increase, especially in Cayo Largo del Sur, which has almost doubled its amount of income and number of visitors.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 28 July reports that a five-car train nicknamed "Pocholo" began service from Santiago de Cuba to (San Luis de Jagua) on 25 July as a means of relieving the serious passenger transporation problem. To provide this service, almost 2 km of railroad had to be built at a cost of 0.5 million pesos. The train makes three daily runs, and can carry 500 persons each round trip at a cost of 8 cents. The railroad's eastern division has announced that a line to Zongo and La Maya is under construction.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision at 0000 GMT on 29 July report that the collection of all industrial, hydraulic, and motor oils for the Ministry of the Sugar Industry in Cienfuegos is a priority task for the sugar harvest, and has been assigned to the workers at a plant in the 1 May Agroindustrial Complex. The oil recycling machine can produce between 400 and 500 liters per hour.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 30 July reports that with the completion of the Four Winds [Cuatro Vientos] Hotel, Camageuy tourism industry now has 1,000 rooms available for tourists.

Radio Reloj at 1402 GMT on 31 July reports that wives of African diplomats accredited in Harare, Zimbabwe, have joined Zimbabwe's campaign of solidarity with and support for Cuba, and they have made a contribution of $3,000 for the purchase of medicines.

Radio Reloj at 1413 GMT on 31 July that Cuba is planning to set up it's first wind-powered turbine site in Santa Cruz del Norte Municipality, Havana Province. The site is to have a group of wind turbines that are to provide a total of 1,000 kilowatt-hours. The first phase of this project, which will be financed by nongovernmental international organizations, is to be finished in 1994, and the site is expected to begin generating electricity as soon as this phase is completed.

Radio Reloj at 1414 GMT on 31 July reports that with the opening of the Jesus Menendez-Victoria de las Tunas line, all Las Tunas Province's municipalities are now linked by rail. Las Tunas is the first province in the nation to accomplish this. The new train can carry almost 1,000 passengers and serves important cane-growing areas.

Radio Rebelde at 1715 GMT on 31 July reports that the Quakers from England and the United States have delivered to the Lenin Hospital and Octavio de la Concepcion y de la Pedraja Pediatric Hospital in Holguin a donation of medicines, which is presently in short supply. Other such medical donations are expected soon.

Radio Rebelde at 1716 GMT on 31 July reports that the first shipment of medicines and clothing earmarked for Holguin Province hospitals—the result of recently signed "twin city" agreements between Monterrey, [Nuevo Leon state] Mexico and Holguin, Holguin Province—was sent to Cuba today. The shipment is assessed at approximately $65,000 and is the first of several donations that will be sent to the people of Holguin by Monterrey city authorities via Cubana de Aviacion and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples, beginning in August.

Cayman Islands

Drug Squad Chief Receives Death Threats

FL0408014493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2242 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Aug 3, CANA—Cayman Islands police commissioner Alan Ratcliffe said recent death threats against drugs squad chief Trevor Cutts have only served to intensify police efforts against drugs and drug dealers. The threats were received by telephone after Cutts and his officers made a series of raids several days ago resulting in the arrest of 16 people on various drug charges, including nine for sale of cocaine.

"If any person thought that the issue of such threats, whether made idly or seriously, would cause any diminishing of the efforts of the drugs squad of any member of the RCIP in their fight against the drug problem, they are

clearly out of touch with reality," said the commissioner. That threat was apparently in retaliation for the recent raids, Ratcliffe said.

That operation, made in conjunction with undercover officers from the drug enforcement agency of the U.S., put a "serious dent" in street drug dealing Cutts said.

Cutts came to the Cayman Islands in January of this year on assignment from the UK, where he was in drug enforcement for the past 15 years, said it wasn't the first time he was threatened. In fact, said Cutts, the threat will make him and his officers "work even harder. We've got the support of the Caymanian people in the fight against drugs and drug dealers," he said.

Ratcliffe also disclosed police are closing in on a suspect who reportedly issued the death threat, but declined to be more specific.

Dominican Republic

President Balaguer Undergoes Surgery in Miami

PA0308232893 Paris AFP in Spanish 2239 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Santo Domingo, 3 Aug (AFP)—Vice President Carlos Morales Troncoso, who is in charge of the presidency during Balaguer's absence, reported on 3 August that Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer underwent surgery at the Jackson Memorial Center in Miami, Florida.

Troncoso said 87-year-old Balaguer underwent surgery to ease an ailment, caused by thrombophlebitis, in one of his legs.

Balaguer left Santo Domingo suddenly on 2 August, following his Dominican doctors' recommendation and at the request of U.S. specialists treating him. Official reports have not specified how long Balaguer will remain in the United States for medical treatment.

Meanwhile, the country's situation remains normal during the president's absence, and the Dominican people are paying close attention to reports on the president's health.

Haiti

Army Chief Views Coup, Aristide's Return, Future

AU0208121193 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 2 Aug 93 p 6

[Interview with Army Chief Raoul Cedras by Rita Neubauer in Port-au-Prince; date not given: "Policies Must Change"]

[Text] [Neubauer] Why did you sign the UN plan? Was it international pressure, such as the oil embargo, or were all the previously mentioned internal factors decisive?

[Cedras] It was not pressure from outside. What is more, all parties realized that the right time had come. All the elements are now involved in order to achieve a solution to the economic crisis. However, we are still in a structural crisis and that will take many years to solve.

[Neubauer] How big are the chances this will work now?

[Cedras] All of us have to cooperate for we have experienced almost 200 years of division in our society. We must change our policies.

[Neubauer] Policies or the politicians?

[Cedras] Policies but the politicians have to improve.

[Neubauer] What role will the Army play?

[Cedras] We will guarantee the security of the country. But it is not at all true that we established a military government after 30 September 1991.

[Neubauer] Can the military coup of 1991 be repeated?

[Cedras] That was not a coup, it was a military action to protect society from President Aristide's totalitarian government. It was not a traditional coup.

[Neubauer] Can this military action be repeated?

[Cedras] I do not think so because we arranged things so that a repetition is not necessary.

[Neubauer] Do you regret the coup today in view of the fact that you will soon resign and President Aristide will return?

[Cedras] No, because military action was necessary and I think that we will neither have "dechouke" nor "pere lebrun" ever again. (The retaliation measures against Dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier's henchmen, the "Tonton Macoutes," by the people after his overthrow are called "dechouke." The burning car tires that were put around the necks of opponents of the government under Aristide went down in history as "pere lebrun"—the editors)

[Neubauer] You are not sorry for the dead either?

[Cedras] What dead?

[Neubauer] According to the international human rights organizations estimates, 1,500 to 2,000 people died during the coup and aftermath.

[Cedras] Nobody knows exactly how many. Some say 300, others say 3,000 or 200. These people should perhaps make a decision. According to our estimates, less than 100, including soldiers, were killed.

[Neubauer] It is true that you agreed to President Aristide's return. Why are people who demonstrate in favor of Aristide still arrested?

[Cedras] I do not understand what the demonstrators want. It was established that Aristide will return. I think they want to make trouble because they do not want him to return.

[Neubauer] You must explain this to me.

[Cedras] We are living in a very tense situation. There is no oil. One wonders why demonstrations are taking place just now. We must wait for the embargo to be suspended and for the country to calm down.

[Neubauer] In the past, Haiti often witnessed agreements that were later broken. Will you really resign?

[Cedras] I agreed to that.

[Neubauer] What has changed in the past 23 months? Do you believe that the Army can now live with Aristide?

[Cedras] The Army lived with Aristide for seven months. In order to understand what happened afterward, one must know what Aristide did. (Cedras puts pictures of charred corpses on his desk and asks whether this is "nice.") I hope that we will be able to count on international help for our economy in the future. And I hope that Aristide will accept the rules, the democratic rules.

[Neubauer] What do you think of the deployment of multinational troops in Haiti for the observation of these democratic rules by both sides?

[Cedras] If the president calls for multinational troops, this will have to be approved by the legislature because it is not constitutional. Technical help is no problem because the Army always had technical help from other countries. What we need is a new police force.

[Neubauer] The so-called "chef de section," the police forces in the country, are known for their repressive function. What will be done with them?

[Cedras] In some areas, these police chiefs actually showed totalitarian tendencies, but they are often the only representatives of the state that fulfill administrative tasks. Land conflicts complicate these things. But I hope this will change with a new police force.

Diplomats Explain UN Mission: Cooperation, Not Occupation

FL0308155993 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] On 2 August, foreign diplomats in Port-au-Prince said that the United Nations is going to send to Haiti a technical mission of cooperation to work with the police and the Army, but this is not the rumored occupation or intervention force. Senators and political leaders have recently protested the possible Haitian deployment of a 1,000-man multinational force, requested by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Leandro Despouy of Argentina, political assistant to international mediator Dante Caputo, said in a statement to the media that it is a technical cooperation mission in conformance with UN standards and that this misleading picture of occupation or intervention forces, which is sometimes innocent and sometimes deliberate, should be discarded. As Despouy told Signal FM, it is armed intervention not technical cooperation, which the international community would not want:

[Begin recording in progress] ...to avoid (?misunderstandings) will it be, I would say, a way to hide U.S. intervention, an occupation, as was asked yesterday at the conference? No. This must be clearly stated. Haiti will not be occupied. If occupation were the answer so many efforts to negotiate would not have made made. They would have followed the path of occupation. But in today's world, the international community does not want occupation. The United States does not want to occupy Haiti. The fact is, not only do we say there must.... [pauses] that the Haitians say there must not be an occupation, but that as mediators we can say or the special envoy can say (?no occupation). No. The point is that neither the international community nor the United States wants Haiti occupied. [end recording]

The U.S. special charge d'affaires for Haiti, Ambassador Charles Redman, told the media there were no occupation or intervention forces but rather doctors for public health, technicians for roads, and experts to help Haitians. Ambassador Redman explained that most of those people will not be armed and that UN professional policemen will carry only a small sidearm.

Both diplomats were speaking at the conclusion of a meeting of representatives of the main countries charged with monitoring the implementation of the inter-Haitian agreements reached in the United States.

Signal Notes Reaction to Request for Multinational Force

FL0208163493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Italicized passages recorded in Creole]

[Excerpts] In reacting to the idea of deploying a multinational force in the country, Deputy Pierre Simon Georges [member of Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion] thinks that only the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] can carry or authorize someone to carry weapons. President Aristide has formally asked the United Nations to deploy a multilateral mission of 1,000 men including some provided with [word indistinct] weapons for their own protection. This mission will see that human rights are respected, help with the professionalization of the Army, and provide for the creation of a new police force. On the pretext that he was not aware of the plan, Deputy Georges confined himself to saying that the 1987 Constitution prohibits the carrying of firearms without an authorization from the FADH.

[Georges] *I believe that within the scope of the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact, which I personally signed, is the question of technical cooperation for*

issues such as the professionalization of the Army, external cooperation, and so on. But as far as a multinational force is concerned, I think that the Constitution, which all of us must respect and which we all have sworn to respect, states that only the FADH and the police have the right to carry weapons. It is also the only force that has the right [words indistinct] on the national territory. I think that, while struggling against any national paramilitary forces, we must also struggle against any international paramilitary forces. [passage omitted]

For his part, socialist Deputy Yves Pericles Beauge [member of Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] stated: We do not need a multinational police force but rather technical assistance for the professionalization of the Haitian Army. He explained that the parliament is waiting to know whether it is true. [passage omitted]

[Beauge] *I think that we do not need troops to come to the country....*

[Unidentified journalist, interrupting] *What about an international police force?*

[Beauge] *Neither do we need an international police force. It is a question of technical assistance to all institutions including the military. Then, if that is the case, then if that is the case [repeats], we within the parliament are waiting because we know of no forces that have the right to walk upon the country's soil, according to the Constitution. President Aristide knows that. I believe that as president of the Republic, he consulted.... [pauses] He must refer to the Constitution. He knows that the Constitution prohibits any other foreign force from trampling the country's soil.*

Guy Alexandre, ambassador of the Aristide government to the Dominican Republic, allegedly said that no direct military intervention force will solve Haiti's structural and institutional problems. This was according to the weekend issue of the newspaper LE MATIN quoting the Dominican daily HOY journalist German Reyes. Still according to LE MATIN, Alexandre favors the presence of mediating foreign elements. But he explained, quote, I am not a partisan of intervention and I would not favor it under any pretext. [no reference to closing of quotation]

Let us point out that Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton describes President Aristide's request as a crime of high treason. [passage omitted]

According to Carl Denis, a member of the National Coalition, speaking on the state owned television, all those, who are opposed to the idea of deploying a multinational force in the country, should wear a blue and red bandana as a sign of protest. Denis, a fierce opponent to the president father, appeared on television with a bandana around his head in order to ask the people to say no to foreign intervention in the country. Whether on the street or at home, the insignia can be put somewhere in order to express one's repudiation of the restored president's request. [passage omitted]

Mrs. Mireille Durocher Bertin expressed her objection to the Lavalas government's request during a program broadcast by the same media. According to her, the 1,000-men request constitutes a trusteeship. Once again, Mrs. Bertin demands that the legislature indict the president for treason. Mrs. Bertin, a member of the National Coalition, concludes that the legislature must also prevent this deployment by submitting the matter to the Court of Cassation in order to prevent this plan. [passage omitted]

PANPRA Opposes Intervention, Favors Assistance

FL0308210393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] The Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party, PANPRA, reaffirms its position of principle against all solutions that use force in questioning national sovereignty, maintains its stand on the Governors Island Accord signed by President Aristide and General Cedras, and the New York Pact, the two agreements that according to PANPRA, constitute a sound basis for a return to constitutional order and for resumption of the democratization process of the state.

PANPRA reaffirms its agreement to accepting international technical assistance in the professionalization of the Armed Forces and the creation of a modern police force. The party feels at the same time, however, that President Aristide's request for a multinational force violates the country's Constitution, the Governors Island Accord, and the New York Pact. That is why PANPRA is calling for everyone's patriotic and democratic awareness, respect for the Constitution, and for the signed accords.

It invites President Aristide to form, with the concord government, the country's political and military forces, a better way to put them into concrete form, to channel the international technical assistance in creating the new police force.

Joseph Supports Idea of Government-Liaison Ministry

FL0208222093 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The achievements of some projects must be guaranteed and relations between the prime minister and parliament must be established on the basis of openness in order to support his chances of approval, according to Chamber of Deputies President Antoine Joseph. [passage omitted]

Joseph supports the prime minister's idea of appointing a minister without portfolio, whose mandate will include ensuring improved relations between parliament and the office of the prime minister:

[Begin Joseph recording] Personally, I consider it a good idea because the immediate positive results will be to spare the prime minister the burden of receiving individual parliamentarians on a frequent basis, which could interfere with his workload activities. It will also allow the prime minister to understand clearly the problems of parliament, while ensuring good relations between the government and parliament. It will provide the government with knowledge of what difficulties can occur during a vote on law that is important to the country, and will provide the ministers with someone on the spot.... [pauses] sorry, the prime minister with someone on the spot, allowing him to see all the problems that can and do exist between government and the legislative power. [passage omitted]

Dupiton Awaits 'Formal Session' To Resign Senate Post

FL0308191793 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton [of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion, ACP] intends to resign his post as Senate president only after a formal session and on the condition that his resignation leave the government in good hands. During a news conference held on 2 August, Dupiton also threatened the 18 January senators' return to the parliament to approve the choice of prime minister if the opposing camp continues to violate the New York pact. Gary Belizaire's report follows:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Belizaire] The process of approving the prime minister is involved because the Senate of the Republic is not yet normalized. This means there is still no new Senate president. Considering that Sen. Dupiton claims he is still president of the Senate, even though he said he was ready to resign, normalization does not appear to be imminent. [passage omitted]

[Dupiton] I will not be caught in this trap. From the moment when formally.... [pauses] Formally I was sworn in, and I will resign formally. I will resign in front of the assembly because I signed many documents. I signed checks, I signed checks for those men and they cashed them. They said they (?did not acknowledge me as Senate president) but they did everything in their interests while we were managing the Republic.

[Belizaire] Sen. Dupiton said he gives no credence to Firmin Jean-Louis of [the Constitutionalist Anti- Corruption Bloc branch] resignation as president of the Senate and considers that a trap. The senator also refuses to acknowledge that there is a new provisional office at the head of the Senate, headed by Franck Leonard. Yet the ACP senators participated in the formation of this office on 26 July. They participated, as well, in the first session conducted by the office.

What is the exact date for Sen. Dupiton's decision to hold this formal session during which he will resign? A journalist asked this question of the senator, who angrily answered: It seems you are the one who will set the exact date for me because I am not yet ready. [passage omitted]

During his news conference, Dupiton provided explana tions of the attempt against him. The senator rejected th version claiming that he called the police. He was very angr with the media and journalists who broadcast that versior Sen. Dupiton said his version is the truth. [passage omitted

Sen. Dupiton ended by saying that the 27 July attemp against him was political. [end recording]

Malval Meets People's Organizations, Poses Guarantees

FL0208220893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister-Designate Robert Malval me on 30 July with Port-au-Prince people's organizations The prime minister-designate, who is awaiting approval outlined formal guarantees on the formation of the nex government of concord and national reconciliation according to a member of the Organization for th Development of [Haitian] Youth, ODEJH. The ODEJH members are satisfied with this meeting. [passag omitted]

U.S. Retaliation Feared in Fulfilling Aid Promise to Cuba

FL0408014393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2232 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Aug 3, CANA—Almos five months after the St. Vincent and the Grenadine Government promised food assistance to Cuba followin a tropical storm, the supplies are yet to be transported

Foreign affairs minister, Herbert Young, and members o the St. Vincent-Cuba Friendship Association, said th problem was one of lack of transportation and concern fo United States retaliation on the part of regionally-operate ships.

"No boat in the region would be willing to go into Cub especially now with the Toricelli legislation," which tight ened the embargo against the Spanish-speaking Caribbea island by barring ships going to Cuba from entering U.S ports, said a member of the association. "We have hit a dea end, and its really looking grimmer and grimmer."

Officials said attempts were being made to have a Cuba ship travel to the southern Caribbean to collect supplie beginning in Guyana, with Trinidad and Tobago bein asked to provide fuel for the return journey, but it appeare that the shortage of fuel in Cuba was making it difficult t even provide a ship with enough fuel to make the outwar journey.

Young said that in recent discussions with the Cuba ambassador to the eastern Caribbean, the diploma indicated they were still working on the matter, bu expressed his satisfaction that some assistance was no getting into Cuba from concerned United States citizen and organisations via Mexico.

Press Review Notes EL NACIONAL Report on Rift Within PRD

PA0308040193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1451 GMT 1 Aug 93

[From the 1 August Mexican press review; "Heberto Castillo Resigns From All Posts in the Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD; Porfirio Munoz Ledo Vetoed Him"—EL NACIONAL headline]

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Aug (NOTIMEX)—For many years I have struggled to conquest democracy in this country and dedicated some time to the formation of a party that may serve as an instrument for the struggle of the most abandoned sectors of the population. The Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), over 40 years later, has fulfilled my desires, said Heberto Castillo. Our second congress elected a new president and, for the first time, a secretary general. The main streams or currents that participate in building the PRD have expressed themselves. I cannot participate in an election that disregards the sovereignty of our second congress, he said. The victorious current has not had the political will to form a plural Executive Committee in proportion to the forces that exist within the PRD. I will not be a candidate for any other post in the PRD.

Malaysian Minister Told of Decision Against Accord

BK0408095493 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 0800 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Mexico will not be signing a bilateral investment guarantee agreement (IGA) with Malaysia. International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Azix said this in Mexico City. She said that she had been informed of Mexico's decision by her counterpart Dr. Jaime Serra Puche, who told her that Mexico did not have any policy on IGA.

The minister said this at the conclusion of a three-nation trade promotion drive that had taken her and a group of 20 Malaysian businessmen to Argentina, Chile, and Mexico since July 25th.

She had left for Dallas, Texas where she would meet the chairman of Texas Instruments, and later fly to Los Angeles for a quick stopover before returning to Kuala Lumpur. She added that the Malaysian Government, however, would monitor the situation for the benefit of Malaysians interested in investing in Mexico.

Datuk Sri Rafidah said Malaysia is expected to conclude IGA negotitaions with Chile by the end of the year. IGA's are normally signed by nations to guarantee the safety of foreign investment, and to protect them from being nationalized.

Further negotiations are being pursued by Malaysians to invest in Mexico following Malaysia's 12-trade and investment delegation [as heard] to Mexico led by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in 1991. These include the construction of a hotel in Mexico and a joint venture to build and operate a palm oil refinery.

Costa Rica

Education Minister Herrera Orders Schools Reopened

PA0308205393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0041 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] San Jose, 2 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Marvin Herrera, Costa Rica's education minister, on 2 August ordered the reopening of schools that were closed the week of 25 July due to the teachers' strike.

Herrera said that teachers and students who return to schools will be protected by the Civil Guard, thanks to an agreement with Public Security Minister Luis Fishman.

The education centers must be reopened, because there are teachers and students who are ready to work and make up for time lost by the strike ordered by the Associated Teachers Organizations Council (Cima) "without a reason," the education minister said.

Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier downplayed the strike and asked teachers to return to the classrooms.

The Teachers Association has been the group that has received the most benefits from this government, Calderon added. He attended the religious ceremonies honoring La Virgen de Los Angeles, patron saint of Costa Rica.

The teachers must end their strike and return to the bargaining table with the education minister, the president told Cima members.

He emphasized teachers' moral obligations to students and Costa Rican society and said that the first such obligation is "responsibility."

The strike, which began the week of 25 July, was supported by more than 30,000 teachers at its peak, but current support does not reach 30 percent, according to authorities.

In addition to the teachers, 40,000 other public employees staged a strike the week of 25 July.

This strike was supported by workers from the hospital, postal offices, the Public Works Ministry, and other government agencies. They ended their strike after negotiating with the government salary increases of over 5 percent, established by the decree that went into effect on 1 July.

El Salvador

Onusal Says Weapons Surrender Process on Schedule

PA0208013793 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] Director Augusto Ramirez Ocampo said the weapons surrender process by former guerrillas is satisfactory and is expected to conclude on 4 August.

According to the UN diplomat, the weapons surrender process is progressing every day. He added that the process is developing in accordance with a schedule agreed on with each of the five groups that form the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. The process started on 8 July.

Ramirez Ocampo, a Colombian citizen, added that they expect to complete the process by 4 August as agreed and to gather a full inventory.

The FMLN, which has now become a legal political party, agreed to surrender all its weapons after investigations by Nicaraguan authorities confirmed the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces [FPL] were responsible for four arsenals discovered last May in Managua. Nevertheless, the FPL and the FMLN have rejected on the whole any association with documents related to plans to kidnap several Latin American personalities that were found with the weapons. It is believed these weapons and documents belong to an international terrorist network.

This incident prompted the U.S. Senate on 29 July to freeze approximately $103 million in financial assistance to Nicaragua.

Onusal, Human Rights Ombudsman Sign Cooperation Agreement

PA0208145493 San Salvador Canal Doce Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] The United Nations and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman signed a cooperation agreement today that ensures the gradual transfer of vigilance responsibilities from the United Nations to the human rights organization. The document was signed by Human Rights Ombudsman Carlos Molina Fonseca and Diego Garcia Sayan, Onusal [UN Observers to El Salvador] head of the Human Rights Division. Onusal Director Augusto Ramirez Ocampo was also present during the signing ceremony.

The transfer activities program will be prepared jointly by both organizations during the next two months. In addition, Onusal will provide technical and logistical support for the implementation of operations during its preliminary stages.

Ramirez Ocampo and Molina Fonseca coincided in describing the agreement signing ceremony as historic and emphasized that human rights agreements were the basis for the other agreements that ended the armed conflict in El Salvador.

Official Comments on Onusal Human Rights Report

PA3107041193 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Report by Jose Abiu Segovia]

[Text] Human Rights Ombudsman Carlos Molina Fonseca has commented on the latest UN report on human rights in El Salvador, agreeing that respect for the fundamental rights of man is making progress under the guidance of the peace agreements. He noted, however, that not all crimes are attributed to common criminals because of a lack of means for investigating.

[Begin Molina recording] We agree on the issue of restrictions on freedom, something that remains a rather delicate problem, although we believe some progress is being made. Due process is also becoming a critical matter, as this is a structural problem. The hope exists now that the judges will be familiar with the proceedings, based on recent reforms, and that lower court judges will be responsible for issuing final rulings. This could ease the delay in meting out justice. We are hopeful about this.

We would like to address the problem of violent murders, which are not always perpetrated by unconventional groups despite the [words indistinct], something that used to happen in the past. We note that some cases seem very strange because an adequate investigation has not been conducted. [end recording]

Molina hailed the newly created subcommittee of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace for supervising the collection and destruction of weapons belonging to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. This subcomittee will also be in charge of collecting weapons meant for the exclusive use of the Armed Forces. He said these two cases must be handled selflessly and sincerely.

[Begin Molina recording] This is a very important time for showing good faith and commitment. Seen this way, I believe the Salvadoran people must regard it with a great deal of hope. If we truly have the commitment of abiding by the agreements, and some believe compliance has taken a long time, we think it will be worthwhile the moment we truly do as we pledged and weapons are destroyed. We hope 4 August will be a memorable date for our country. We truly hope it will be a significant date.

Another aspect worth mentioning has to do with collecting weapons meant for the exclusive use of the Armed Forces. We have stated our views in writing, and we reiterate them everytime we talk to you. The National Police or any other entity must collect them. This cannot continue like this or else the peace effort we are making will not be worth the while. [end recording]

Molina also said the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] will sign an agreement on Thursday, 29 July, with the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office. The agreement will be a timetable for handing over all cases handled by Onusal's Human Rights Division so that the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office assume responsibility for receiving, recording, and following up on the particulars, since the agreements authorize it to perform this duty as an institution with permanent functions.

[Begin Molina recording] This is no ordinary agreement, as it establishes a timetable for handing over all cases and recommendations to us. We would hope to get some infrastructure [words indistinct] to strengthen the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, which we could get from Onusal. We continue [words indistinct] Onusal is temporary and mine is a permanent office that emerged from the agreements. [end recording]

Presidency Minister Says Report Contradictory

PA0208171493 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0330 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] During an interview with the "Up to Date" newscast on the morning of 30 July, Presidency Minister Dr. Oscar Santamaria said that the Seventh National Human Rights Report prepared by Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] is contradictory because it reports a reduction in human rights violations while noting that there remains a lot to be done in this area.

[Begin Santamaria recording] Sometimes what these gentlemen write seems somewhat contradictory. On one hand, they praise the process as it is progressing, while on the other hand, they make statements based on individual cases which go against their earlier conclusions. [end recording]

Dr. Santamaria said that our country is moving toward achieving respect for human rights. He drew a comparison with what is taking place in Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru, where criminals are sometimes burned alive. He also indicated that the atmosphere of confrontation generated by the war has a lot to do with violence in our country.

Defense Minister Defends Police Work by Army Patrols

PA0208005793 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Defense Minister Colonel Humberto Corado refuted statements by Joaquin Villalobos that Army patrol activities are a political time bomb.

The minister said this in response to a statement by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front leader

Joaquin Villalobos, who said the Army is not prepared to deter criminals and that the patrols are a political time bomb.

[Begin recording] [Corado] There is no reason why we should make mistakes. Some accidents may happen but we are making every effort so that the mission is accomplished in the best possible way, showing full respect for the law and the human rights of citizens.

[Unidentified reporter] May we say then that the Army is duly prepared to accomplish this mission?

[Corado] Public security is not our main mission and we do not specialize in that but we, as an armed institution, are a last resort to accomplish various types of missions. [end recording]

Corado said that while it is true that public security is not an Army mission, the Army is currently functioning as an alternative to safeguard citizens' security. He rejected criticism of this role.

[Begin Corado recording] If we look at this, taking into consideration the national situation and public interest, the patrols are not negative. If the patrols are looked at from the point of view of a certain group's interests, then these patrols might be seen as somehow affecting the interests of that group. [end recording]

The military commander said that in spite of the criticism, the patrol operations have been positive. He noted that in areas such as the capital, public security corps such as the National Civilian Police and the National Police should double their efforts because the Army patrols are not operating there.

FMLN's Villalobos on Army Patrols

PA3107022693 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] will swear in a commission that will be in charge of verifying the turnover of weapons by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the roundup of weapons that are used exclusively by the Armed Forces. Joaquin Villalobos said the FMLN is ready to meet the deadline set up by the United Nations for the total turnover of weapons. The deadlines expires on 4 August.

Villalobos said it was positive that Copaz is participating in the roundup of weapons belonging to the Armed Forces. Here is what Joaquin Villalobos said:

[Being Villalobos recording] It is a good initiative on the part of Copaz to get involved in this, particularly because this matter involves both sides. For example, I traveled this weekend on Comalapa Road to the airport and I saw Armed Forces checkpoints stopping vehicles. This is not allowed by the law. If an Armed Forces member orders a citizen to stop on the highway, he has no obligation whatsoever to stop his vehicle. A person stops his vehicle when the National Civilian Police or the National Police orders him to halt.

The fact that the Armed Forces is deployed out on the streets is a time bomb. You have out there a people with a culture of violence, a culture of confrontation. One of these days, what happened during the march by the war wounded may happen again. These people are quick to pull the trigger. In a tense situation they lose control and responsibility will fall on the Armed Forces' high command and on the executive branch. They should correct this situation before something happens. They should find another way to attack the crime problem that does not include using the Armed Forces, which is a political time bomb that could go off at any time. [end recording]

Villalobos added that the Armed Forces' presence on the streets does not benefit the government, the opposition, or the nation in general in any way. He explained why he considers the situation a time bomb.

[Begin Villalobos recording] Armed forces and armies are trained to act in military situations; they have a culture and a way of acting that is geared toward that. They are not trained to persuade or to prevent. What will an Armed Forces member do if one day a vehicle with a drunken driver coming back from the beach or someone like that refuses to stop? There is a very high probability that he will take a shot at him. It is also possible that someone may respond to the arrogant conduct of some of these officers, who still have not been trained in the new doctrine, by [words indistinct].

Armed Forces members are known for their arrogant behavior. What are we being exposed to by the Armed Forces? One of these days we may have a conflict. Who will be responsible? I believe the saying that the cure is worse than the disease holds true here. I am not saying that they should not participate in controlling crime, but I think there are ways of making them participate that are not so problematical, that do not expose them so much. After the purge, after the reduction process, after all the costs the Armed Forces has had to pay, I do not believe that those who ordered the soldiers to do this are doing them any favor. [end recording]

Even so, the crime problem is on the rise and the community demands measures to halt the crime wave. Villalobos indicated what in his opinion could contribute to reduce this phenomena.

[Begin Villalobos recording] I believe that if some readjustments are made in the National Civilian Police, this problem could be attended to. The image a foreigner receives when he comes to our country and finds the army deployed on the streets is that nothing has changed here. If everyone thinks that nothing has changed here, this will even affect foreign cooperation plans and support for the nation. That is absurd. It is a very serious political error to do this. There are other ways of doing things. I am not saying that the Armed Forces cannot participate, but this must be done with a great deal of

caution. The Armed Forces has aircraft, it has means of transportation so it could play another role in cooperation with the National Police and the National Civilian Police. I have seen soldiers at checkpoints, without National Police or National Civilian Police members, stopping vehicles. This is not legal. It is unconstitutional, it is an abuse of power and this places the Armed Forces, once again, on the bench of the accused. [end recording]

Government, FMLN React to Suspension of Aid to Nicaragua

PA0108182693 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] The Salvadoran Government said it hopes the suspension of U.S. aid to Nicaragua will not undermine the integration process on the isthmus. National Information Secretary Ernesto Altschul warned that political instability in any of the Central American countries will hamper the governments' ability to decide on and dedicate time to the integration process.

The former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrilla movement condemned the U.S. Government's decision to suspend aid to Nicaragua and said the policy will be largely responsible for whatever happens in that country.

Arena Says FMLN Should Uncover Kidnapping, Terrorism Plan

PA0308211293 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 31 Jul 93 p 3

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] On the afternoon of 30 July we received from the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, the following communique:

"Arena spokesmen say the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] must help to identify the perpetrators of the kidnapping and terrorism plan that came to light following the accidental explosion in May of a clandestine arsenal maintained by the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces [FPL] in Managua, Nicaragua.

"This cooperation is very important because the U.S. Senate has been forced to suspend economic aid to Nicaragua, which will further intensify the social and economic crisis left behind by the Sandinist government with its evil policy of nationalization and confiscations.

"There can be no doubt that the FMLN is directly responsible for the Senate decision because the Nicaraguan Government has clearly indicated that the arsenal found at a workshop on the outskirts of Managua belonged to the FPL, one of the groups that comprise the FMLN political party.

"The FMLN has also been publicly accused of participating in the kidnapping and terrorism plan against Latin American political leaders and businessmen, and to date this political party has not proven its innocence.

"These illegal actions by a political party have seriously alarmed the national and international community because they directly violate the Chapultepec Agreements and are a hindrance to the democratic process El Salvador is currently experiencing.

"The FMLN should display a sincere and honest desire to help shed light on the kidnapping and terrorism plan by demanding that those members who were implicated in the evil plan surrender to the authorities and stand trial; otherwise, the FMLN will become an accomplice of terrorist operations that are taking place all over the world.

FMLN Reports Murder of Four Leaders in La Paz

PA3007133393 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] reported on 28 July the murder of four of its leaders in the Rosario de la Paz municipality in central La Paz Department. According to the FMLN, Adrian Lara, Carlos Lara Molina, Segundo Lara, and David Lara Molina, all four related to each other and FMLN leaders in this town, were murdered by heavily armed men on 25 July.

A communique from the FMLN, released by the Communications Secretariat of that political institution, states that attempts against its members jeopardize the country's political stabilization. The FMLN demanded from the government greater control of the armed groups that sow panic among the population and who are linked to extreme right-wing sectors in the country.

The FMLN also demanded that Jose Maria Monterrey, director of the National Civilian Police, carry out a proper deployment of the new police officers in order to prevent this kind of action.

Catholic Church Vicar Criticizes U.S. Troops' Arrival

PA0308042593 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Report by Imelda Alvarenga]

[Text] On 1 August, the Catholic Church criticized the arrival of a U.S. troop contingent scheduled for 10 August. The Legislative Assembly recently granted permission for 450 U.S. troops to arrive to engage in building clinics and wells in some communities.

Ricardo Urioste, general vicar of the church, said that our country is living in peace and does not need the presence of more troops.

[Begin Urioste recording] I think troops are what we need the least in the country. We are living in peace. Supposedly, the country should not have many armies or troops. Also, since it involves foreign troops, construction is subject to interpretation and each group can interpret things according to its own views. [end recording]

The vicar considered that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front must fulfill its commitment to turn over and destroy its remaining weapons by 4 August. Regarding the 1994 general elections, the Catholic Church representative said that political party members should not seek their own interest, as they have done thus far, but rather the interests of the vast majority.

[Begin Urioste recording] In my opinion, such groups of persons should not look after their own vested or party interests but rather the common good of the people and of the neediest sectors of the country. I think that for the past 40 years of our country's history we really have not had a country whose governments have been truly dedicated to serving others. We see how many have amassed wealth. This should not continue. [end recording]

FMLN's Saenz Says 'Dangerous,' 'Damaging'

PA3007233593 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has termed the announced exercise to be conducted by a U.S. military contingent in our country in August as dangerous and damaging to the peace process.

Miguel Saenz, FMLN director of San Salvador Departmental Committee, said the exercise, called Fuertes Caminos, represents clear U.S. intervention at a critical moment just prior to the electoral process.

The FMLN leader also condemned the position adopted by those political parties in the Legislative Assembly that approved the joint exercise between U.S. soldiers and the Salvadoran Armed Forces. The approval of the exercise is illegal because the Legislative Assembly can only authorize the passing of foreign troops but not their stay in the country for several months, Miguel Saenz asserted.

Saenz added that the FMLN will carry out activities aimed at having the Assembly change its decision to allow the entry of U.S. soldiers. He did not provide any details as to what kind of activities will take place.

Commentary on Exercise

PA0208034893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] After the National Assembly granted its approval, 450 soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will arrive in El Salvador in the next few days. The operation, which has been named Fuertes Caminos, includes building schools, widening streets, and digging new water wells. The U.S. troops, who will be staying for 10 months, will work jointly with local Salvadoran troops.

The U.S. troop presence has already been poorly received by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] party. The FMLN believes that the peace process will be undermined, especially now that the presidential elections are close.

It is clear that the National Assembly decision was made by the majority, including votes by leftist parties, with the exclusion of the Nationalist Democratic Union.

The FMLN insists that the reconstruction projects can well be carried out by other institutions and plans to express its opposition through the appropriate channels.

More than build schools and dig water wells, the U.S. mission may have other objectives such as the on site inspection of possible additional hidden FMLN weapons or getting to know the terrain where the guerrillas operated. Another possible objective could be related to uncovering possible routes used by drug traffickers. In fact, there may be many more hidden objectives because not everything arrives by the grace of God.

The United States also undertakes community benefit projects in other countries of the region so in this respect El Salvador is not the exception. Although the situation in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Panama is different than in El Salvador, through their conduct the U.S. troops will have to demonstrate that they can also build projects here to benefit the poorest communities.

It should be understood that the United States is attempting to keep an eye on the region, especially since it has become a bridge for drug traffickers. But they are also attempting to change their warmongering image and, in this respect, once and for all, they will accomplish two objectives.

Guatemala

De Leon Comments on 'Incursions' by Belizean Troops

PA0208181093 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Excerpt] President Ramiro De Leon Carpio says he is aware of the incursion by Belizean troops into Guatemalan territory. He said that such incursions can be considered normal in certain border areas.

[Begin De Leon recording] Of course I am aware of this. I was informed precisely on the evening of 30 July. I have been told that in the areas involved it is geographically difficult to detect the border line. This has happened to Guatemala as well as Belize when, without noticing it, the authorities have gone beyond the border.

This is the information that I have and I will confirm it now that I have returned home. [passage omitted on president repeating himself] [end recording]

Commission Demands Complaint

PA0308165193 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 31 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] Legislator Vinicio Villar Anleu, president of the Foreign Relations Commission, says the commission is demanding that Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo Maldonado file a strong international complaint over incursions by Belizean troops into areas of Peten. According to the legislator, the Foreign Ministry should already have initiated an offensive to counteract the incursions and it should have denounced the incident to the OAS and United Nations as well.

The Belizeans, Villar said, constantly violate Guatemalan sovereignty and it is necessary to take the case to international forums. Furthermore, the Belizeans are taking advantage of natural resources such as precious wood, Villar said.

Villar added that the new Belizean prime minister should promote a policy of respect for the sovereignty of neighboring countries because as a result of these incursions the Mexican and Guatemalan authorities must maintain permanent surveillance in their border areas.

Villar Anleu announced that the foreign minister will be summoned to congress on 4 August to explain his Belizean policy and how he will go about requesting permanent protection from Defense Minister Mario Enriquez. With Fajardo we will also examine Guatemalan bilateral agreements with Belize and Mexico to establish the nature of our relations and determine the scope of any military incursion agreement, Villar said.

Presidency Secretary General Hector Luna Troccoli described the Belizean soldiers' incursion into Guatemalan territory as very worrisome. He said the action constitutes a clear violation of the country's sovereignty, in response to which the Army as well as the Foreign Ministry should intervene; the former because it is in charge of safeguarding Guatemalan sovereignty. Luna said the Foreign Ministry must investigate the case and file a complaint to the Belizean Government if it is really a matter of protecting Guatemala's sovereign rights, because such reproachful actions cannot be tolerated.

Defense Minister Urges URNG To Join Political Life

PA0308205993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Aug 93 p 28

[Text] "I see peace close. I have always been optimistic and believed that from the armed standpoint there are no valid reasons to continue fighting, Defense Minister General Mario Enriquez Morales said on 1 August in Coban, Alta Verapaz. [no closing quotation marks as published]

"If they (the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG) want to reach power, they have to convince themselves that, militarily speaking, they will not be able to achieve that objective; therefore, they should join the country's political life to create their own party to struggle, like every other existing party but without weapons," the military chief added.

"We do not want more dead; we do not want more wounded or crippled due to the war. We want the press to contribute so that peace can come soon to Guatemala," the high-ranking military officer said.

He mentioned the presence of guerrillas in Sebol, Chabal, and Chisec, where there have not been harassments lately. Enriquez concluded that this still concerns him though, "because the insurgents do not want to understand that the population does not want more war, for it only brings about pain and suffering."

Former General Staff Chief Reassigned

PA0308221593 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Former Chief of Staff General Francisco Ortega, who is currently available for assignment, will be appointed to represent the Guatemalan Armed Forces at the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington.

This has been announced by President Ramiro de Leon Carpio, commander in chief of the Army.

[Begin recording] [De Leon] I can report that as a result of changes in the military leadership and at other military levels, and of an Army High Command resolution, Gen. Ortega is available for assignment and will be posted to the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]

[De Leon] The changes have been made on orders from the president, as I announced on 30 July, Army Day. I adopted these decisions, taking into consideration the Army High Command. I adopted these military decisions after discussing them with the High Command. However, changes in the military leadership are decided by the president of the republic. I am referring to the defense minister, the chief of staff of the defense, the presidential chief of staff, and the deputy defense minister. [end recording]

President Confirms Finance Minister To Stay in Place

PA0308224993 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] President Ramiro De Leon Carpio said on 2 August that Finance Minister Richard Aitkenhead Castillo will not be replaced. The president gave this answer to a question asked during a news conference. De

Leon Carpio also referred to the implementation of various projects that are part of the 180-day plan.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified reporter] The finance minister will not be replaced for the time being?

[De Leon] I have said that the finance minister has the required knowledge for the post; a change would not be convenient at this moment. Additionally, international organizations, due to the agreements, accords and funds that are about to arrive, and the actual Central American agreements, play precisely a very important role in the Central American economic cabinets; therefore he will remain at his post and will not be replaced for the time being.

[Second unidentified reporter] Are there any other officials who were part of the Serrano administration that will be removed?

[De Leon] Not at the minister or deputy minister level, not for the time being. Maybe at the general administrator level; that I do not know yet. The idea is not to make changes just because a person may have worked under President Serrano. No, this is a new administration, with a new style of leadership, based on principles and moral ethics, based on capacity, honesty, integrity, and openness. All this requires that people adapt and that men and women be found that adapt to this new style of leadership. That is perhaps why dismissals and appointments have gone slowly, so that we may identify those men and women who want to serve Guatemala and not have Guatemala serve them.

I announced yesterday [1 August] that over the next few days, as part of this strategy, it will probably be close to 11 August, or rather between 15 and 20 August, when we finally conclude all purges within the executive branch and then take the political measures that people are demanding and asking of me. As I said on several occasions on 1 August, I have no obligation to any sector—political, economic, or social. My commitment is to the Guatemalan people; I do not belong to any political party. My political party is Guatemala; based on this I will continue with the tasks, such as the 180-day plan, whatever corresponds to the presidency. Beginning 15 August, I will be visiting the 330 municipalities to be in direct contact with the people. I will publicly hand each municipal mayor their respective checks corresponding to the 8 percent. I will also issue on-site instructions to departmental governors that I will be appointing and to presidents and coordinators of urban and rural development projects.

Remember that it is through them that the 180-day plan is being implemented in rural areas. The departmental governors who will be my evaluators and who will follow up on projects. They will make day-to-day decisions on implementation of the projects during these 180 days. [end recording]

Army Spokesperson Comments on U.S. Assistance

PA0108223593 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] Major Edith Vargas de Marroquin, spokesperson for the Army Information and Public Relations Office, has denied any unusual events have taken place in Atitlan, Solola. She added the Army had conducted some investigations and the reports turned out to be a false alarm.

Maj. Marroquin added she contacted the military authorities in the area about an alleged confrontation between the Army and rebel troops, but this could not be confirmed.

She said that when any unusual activities do occur, she will be the first one to tell the media about them so they can notify the Guatemalan people, who deserve to be well informed.

As for the frequently mentioned assistance from the United States, the military officer said that this assistance does not include the supply of lethal weapons, as some claim.

She compared the assistance to the Fuertes Caminos program, in which U.S. Army soldiers came to repair hospitals, health centers, and roads, and give scholarships to some members of the Guatemalan Army.

With regard to the rebels who are reportedly refraining from activities, she said this is the result of the fact that the Army has decimated their ranks.

* Political Crisis Unleashes Economic Crisis

93CA0157A Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 14 Jun 93 p 5

[Article by Juan Carlos Ruiz Calderon]

[Text] According to the short-term macroeconomic indicators for the week of 29 May through 4 June determined by the Bank of Guatemala (BANGUAT), the economy is just beginning to recover from the effects of the coup that was initiated within the state.

As of 4 June, the cumulative inflation rate came to 4.49 percent, lower than the figure for the comparable period in 1992, but higher than the 3.3 percent figure for the preceding week.

In other words, there was an increase of more than 10 percent over the level reported for the week between 22 and 31 May as a result of the situation of political instability during that week.

Meanwhile, the average rates of exchange for purchases on the bank and extrabank markets were 5.57 and 5.67 quetzales to the dollar, respectively. The preceding week, the averages were 5.54 and 5.60 quetzales, respectively, so that the quetzal showed a slight devaluation against the U.S. currency.

Absolute international monetary reserves dropped again, as they had the preceding week, from $781 million to $769.4 million, or in other words by almost $10 million in one week.

At the same time, net international reserves also experienced a decline from $504.1 million to $480.3 million, continuing the downward trend that began with the events of 25 May.

As for available foreign exchange, or foreign liquidity, it was at the level of $527.1 million, down $10.4 million from the figure reported on 28 May.

The data on public sales of foreign exchange by the Bank of Guatemala reflected an upward trend in the demand for dollars, as was the case the preceding week.

As of 31 May, demand was at the level of $38.1 million, while by 1 June it had dropped to $37.4 million. However, it shot up to $45.4 million on 2 June, reaching $51.2 million on 4 June.

This increase in the demand for foreign exchange is exerting pressure on the exchange rate and favoring a rise in the level of inflation. It must be remembered that the BANGUAT has ceased to withdraw substantial quantities of the currency from circulation, which also contributes to higher inflation.

The foreign-exchange income obtained from exports dropped again for the week of 29 May through 4 June, with a decline from $15.8312 billion to $13.6444 billion.

Meanwhile, the flow of dollars to foreign countries rose again in that same period, from $36.1474 billion to $44.6784 billion.

Income from tourism also dropped from $4.1911 billion last week to $3.5069 billion. Transfers and gifts suffered the same fate, with a decline from $4.3961 billion the preceding week to $3.7771 billion.

Honduras

Callejas News Conference on National Issues

PA3007224793 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1804 GMT 26 Jul 93

[News conference by Honduran President Rafael Callejas, Central Bank Vice President Godofredo Alvarado, and Finance and Public Credit Minister Rene Ardon Matute with unidentified correspondents at the Presidential Office Building in Tegucigalpa, moderated by unidentified person—live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] Here today are President Rafael Callejas Romero and two of his closest aides, the vice president of the Honduran Central Bank and the Finance and Public Credit Minister. With you now is the president.

[Callejas] Good afternoon. Once again we are meeting on a Monday to comment on and discuss national issues. On this occasion I asked Finance Minister Rene Ardon Matute to be present because on 23 July the IMF decided to sign a widely publicized agreement with the Honduran Government. I would like Ardon to provide any information you might deem timely. Also with us is Godofredo Alvarado, vice president of the Central Bank, because on 22 July it was announced that the Honduran Central Bank had issued a resolution aimed primarily at modifying the policy that governs the Central Bank's involvement in the acquisition of foreign currency. A later circular apparently created a controversy and this is why Godofredo Alvarado is here; specifically to inform the Honduran people of the Central Bank's position regarding the foreign currency issue. I yield to Alvarado; later on we will broach other issues pertaining to the IMF as well as any other question the Presidential Office Building correspondents may have.

[Alvarado] [Words indistinct] the Honduran people that through a resolution issued by the Honduran Central Bank Directorate, this institution's upper administration has been authorized to purchase foreign currency from the Honduran Central Bank's exchange agents at a rate of zero to 50 percent. Over the past few days the bank has been purchasing 20 percent of the foreign currency the exchange agents acquire from the public.

Nevertheless, on 23 July it was announced that foreign currency would again be purchased as of 27 July. However, since this is an administrative decision, it will be executed when the bank deems it advisable. Therefore, the instructions given early on 26 July indicate that the bank will not yet purchase any percentage of the foreign currency; in other words, it will make zero purchases from the exchange agents so that all the foreign currency the agents in question acquire can be used to meet public demand. Therefore, we will continue the policy of not purchasing foreign currency throughout the week and a deadline will not be established. Exchange rate policies are adopted when necessary. I am hereby informing the general public that the Central Bank has decided not to purchase absolutely any of the foreign currency acquired by its exchange agents. I wanted to clarify this specific point.

[Unidentified station announcer] The Central Bank vice president continues. He is asking if there are any questions regarding the foreign currency system or the national financial system.

[First unidentified reporter] I would like you to explain what the Central Bank is going to do about the dollar exchange rate on the local market and at exchange houses because some exchange houses were undergoing investigation. Have you any specific information on how low the dollar will drop? It is still at a little over six lempiras.

[Alvarado] With regard to the investigation of the exchange houses I would like to clarify that the investigation also included all institutions that are exchange agents for the Honduran Central Bank. This includes exchange houses, banks, and savings and loan associations. Sanctions were imposed on certain exchange houses, but I hope that upon proving that they have fulfilled the law, regulations, and Central Bank Directorate resolutions, they will again be authorized to continue to operate as Central Bank exchange agents. At this time only five of the 11 exchange houses that were originally sanctioned have been authorized to operate.

With regard to whether or not the dollar will drop further, the Central Bank's position is that it recently adopted measures and is waiting for certain results. For example, the latest estimates we received on 23 July indicate that on the interbank market the average is 6.63 lempiras after being as high as eight lempiras to the dollar. I believe the results are very encouraging, not only for the government authorities but for the general public. We expect the currency to continue dropping until it reaches the right price. This is what the Honduran Central Bank expects.

[Callejas] The IMF Board of Directors has approved Honduras' expenditures reduction program. I will give the floor to the finance minister so he can read the note that has been received.

[Ardon Matute] We have received an official document sent by IMF authorities to the Central Bank and to the Finance Ministry.

This document reports that the IMF Directorate has satisfactorily finished reviewing Honduras' program. The program had been presented after being analyzed.

The report we have received shows that very interesting comments have been made. The note states: It is my pleasure to inform you that the fund's directorate today satisfactorily finished reviewing Honduras' program. This will permit a prompt release of pending World Bank funds. In the near future we will send you full texts of the statements made by today's meeting speakers and the summary by President [name indistinct].

I can inform you that the executive directors of the offices of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Brazil, Colombia, the Netherlands, Nordic and Baltic countries, Australia, Belgium, Canada, and Caribbean countries, in addition to us, of course, spoke at the meeting.

The proposals were approved unanimously. The speakers expressed support for the Honduran authorities' policies and praised what has already been achieved. The speakers recommended to the authorities not to yield an inch in implementing the stabilization macroeconomic policies aimed at increasing income so that state savings increase. This way inflation can be reduced and stable growth can be established.

Everybody was in favor of asking for the firm support of multilateral institutions and of creditors and bilateral donors to make the Honduran export sector viable in the next few years.

The IMF staff and management decidedly supported the Honduran authorities' program. The directorate expects to discuss the Honduran situation again in a few months to approve the second year of the program.

Allow me to [words indistinct] Marino, who have left Washington on an urgent, official mission for the IMF and myself over this very satisfactory review.

[Callejas] [words indistinct] fundamental. One way or another, an effort has been made to mistakenly tell the people that the government is making excessive public expenditures supporting the political campaign of Jose Osvaldo Ramos Soto. The country has an agreement with the IMF about the level of public expenditures. The statement by the director and the Directorate of the IMF confirm that the government remains within established limits. This shows that we have been able to effectively administer government expenditures. I am saying this so that some sectors stop speculating about the government spending too much money. The IMF has evaluated the government more than satisfactorily. The IMF has decided to praise the Honduran authorities and to recommend that the multilateral authorities continue to support our country.

This means that Honduras will immediately have available $109.5 million and that the government maintains its financial capability to take care of important resources and concessions. This decision keeps open Paris Club negotiations, which as you know have produced extraordinary results, which include the pardoning of the debt with the United States and facilitated operations with Canada for the pardoning of $39 million in a four-year period and with Germany, which decided to convert the debt into an environmental concern.

From the government's point of view, this note is very favorable. I am very satisfied especially because it tells the Honduran people that we are working honestly, austerely, and with fiscal discipline. This is the first time since our country became a member of the IMF that it has been able to reach an agreement with the fund in an electoral year while having economic difficulties.

This was impossible to do during the past two administrations due to lack of compliance with acquired commitments. [passage omitted]

[Barrios] I am Jorge Barrios of LA PRENSA newspaper. Mr. President, the international media or international dispatches have reported a 15-percent drop in the price of fuel. Hondurans ask why there has not been a drop at home considering that the mechanism allows a margin of 5 percent either up or down with regard to the international market. In addition, we have learned Honduras may be excluded from the San Jose Pact because it is no longer purchasing crude oil. These are my two questions.

[Callejas] I will the second question first. Yes, the San Jose Pact refers only to crude oil not refined products. The moment the country made the decision based on costs to stop importing crude we were excluded from the San Jose Pact. I have asked the Venezuelan and Mexican presidents to consider refined products as part of the San Jose Pact to be able to purchase them and be eligible to finance the balance of payment.

As for the first question, I am waiting for the appropriate information regarding the next shipment. The last shipment did not reflect a fluctuation greater or smaller than 5 percent, and, so, there was no reason to lower prices. We will be attentive, and the minute I receive information I will report it to the people. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Is not the letter by the IMF a reward for yielding to the pressure from international organizations to impose tax burdens and restructure the economy in such a drastic manner?

[Callejas] During heated debates in the seminars held by (Albert Harberguer), we have seen the restructuring have favorable macroeconomic results for the country. The letter.... [pauses] reflects a very interesting view. Executive directors from the United States, Japan, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Brazil, Holland, Nordic countries, Belgium, and Canada have spoken. In their comments—I am not talking about IMF money— the directors have supported the policies of the Honduran authorities and hailed the achievements obtained already.

Let us pause briefly at this time to make a cold analysis. The purpose of an adjustment program is to correct mistakes. These are the most successful countries in the world. Nobody can deny here the United States, Japan, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Holland, Nordic countries, Belgium, and Canada are the world's most efficient and richest countries. That is a fact. They are saying we are doing a good job. They are friendly countries. None of those countries are saying we are doing a poor job. We in Honduras, however, want to insist alternatives exist.

What worries me is that we want to make the people believe there are alternatives regarding the world's most successful economic system. We want to tell people we have to find other things, which do not exist. An economic adjustment program certainly has a recessive effect on a sector of the population. What the program does is correct mistakes and economic distortions and open a path to the future. I wish somebody would tell me what the other alternative is to handle an economy other than the market economy. The socialist economy? It has proven its failure. We, however, do not really want to accept that situation. It is difficult for us. That is what these countries are telling us here.

That is why I am glad to say that when someone tells me that my government receives praise from the United States, Japan, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Holland, Belgium, and Canada, it cannot be that they are so mistaken and we are so right. We have here a difference in concepts. It may be that the people feel the costs, but we have been poor for 180 years. That is what we want to ignore now because we are immersed in a political debate. We have never been a rich country. Never! We have always, always [repeats himself].... [pauses] seven out of 10 Hondurans live in poverty. It has always been that way. We need 600,000 housing units in Honduras. The roads are no good. The sewage system does not cover the country. Food.... [pauses] The people suffer because the price of beans goes up. The people suffer; 90 percent of the people suffer because the price of beans goes up. Sadly, this is a dramatic reflection of the tragedy of the poverty in Honduras.

The countries I mention are friends of Honduras. They want Hondurans to live better. This cannot be accomplished overnight. To live better we first must correct the errors of mistaken policies of the past. That is what they are telling us. They are backing us in these decisions because we are on the right track. These friendly countries are indeed telling us they back the government's economic measures. The people are suffering, true, and we must share. They have always suffered, although that is no excuse. My responsibility as leader is to create new opportunities.

If I let things slip and stop acting to leave problems to my successor, I would not be doing my presidential duties. I am going to leave accounts in order. It is not true what a newspaper report said, citing the former president of the Economists Association—who is working in Roberto Reina's presidential campaign and is his candidate for economy minister. We must speak clearly here.

His statement is false. I will pay all debts acquired during my administration. I will not leave unpaid debts in the Republic's budget for the next government. I will leave the country with reserves, fuel, [words indistinct] energy, and medicine. Although the price of medicine is higher for certain segments of the population, it is preferable that it be more expensive than that there be no medicine. This should be our course of action.

The letter says: They were mistaken for many years but are now on the right track, and we, successful people, winners of the world, will support you if we determine you show promise.

[Second unidentified reporter] Mr. President, the IMF letter praises the Honduran Government, but [words indistinct] bad for the Honduran people [words indistinct] pleased with Honduras for making payments on its debt, but they do not care at all about the people's suffering caused by such payments.

[Callejas] Could it be the opposite of what you are suggesting? That friendly countries want us to continue to improve the welfare of the Honduran people? Why can we not give the benefit of the doubt to friendly countries, such as the United States, Germany, and Japan, which have helped us so much, and think they are indeed humane? Why do we have to think the contrary?

I infer from your question that what they did in their economic generation to eliminate poverty and become the world's richest countries is not right for Honduras, that other options are available. What are they?

[Reporter] I meant they are simply acting as [six-second break in reception] measures aim to ensure economic stability to secure their....

[Callejas, interrupting] No, they aim to bring about stable growth. The goal is to reduce inflation and recover stable growth. They are praising the measures because they reduce inflation, guarantee stable growth. That stable growth allowed my government to create 220,000 jobs.

[Reporter] Mr. President, perhaps I am wrong, but you are not the same Rafael Leonardo Callejas we knew during the campaign. We sense your government is pleased with this sort of recognition but what about the opinions of 4 million plus Hondurans who have actually suffered the consequences of these measures?

[Callejas] At least half of them support me; polls have shown this. I dropped 17 points in the most recent one. I had a 52 percent approval rate. This means I had a 69 percent approval rate in the previous poll. A July poll—that is in keeping with Cid- Gallup Polls and was conducted on the bean problem, which we recognize does exist—shows most Hondurans support government actions.

[Reporter] Mr. President, this shows the nobility of the Honduran people, who continue to believe in you and to trust you. But they do not see the specific results of the economic policy you are promoting. We have achieved international success but people in the market do not care what the IMF says because they are hungry and face economic problems.

[Callejas] What is the result of an economic program? I think the generation of more 220,000 jobs is a government success. Is it not a government success that these people became a part of the economic mainstream? Is it not?

[Reporter] Yes. [passage omitted]

[Third unidentified reporter] As for the economy, the Liberal Party is taking advantage of the situation to question and to criticize the government. [words indistinct] Do you think the Liberal Party members will improve the situation if they win the presidential elections?

[Callejas] I would not like to go into politics here, but I would like to say that from now on—unless something in the world takes place like the 1914 to 1917 Bolshevik revolution— there will be two distinct elements in society: democracy as a system of government and a market economy as a system of production. That is reality. He who intends to fool the people by telling them this is not so does not deserve the people's support.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the IMF, who spoke about the country's economy. Does this mean the measures are yielding the expected results? You have spoken about the Honduran domestic situation, in which you admit the people are living in poverty. How long will it take before the people can see results, results that directly affect the people? People are complaining, they are denouncing cases of speculation. How long will it take? The people are always being asked to make sacrifices and they are always being asked to be patient because measures are supposed to yield results in the long run. How long will it take?

[Callejas] During my presidential campaign, I told the people they should be very happy if we developed a strategy that could bring us to Costa Rican levels in 25 years.

[Reporter] The country has been poor for 80 years. How long will it take us to eradicate poverty in Honduras at the current growth rate?

[Callejas] We should at least be investing at a rate of $700 million each year to maintain a positive growth rate. At the current economic growth rate, which is not enough, it would take us 50 years to double our per capita income. It would take us 50 years to reach Costa Rican levels at our current growth rate, which now stands at 4.5 or 5 percent. To make qualitative jumps and reduce the time by 10 years and to reach Costa Rican levels, meaning a per capita income of over $2,000, we need an economic growth rate of 8 to 10 percent.

The conditions we are creating allow for this. If coffee prices alone increased from $55 to $100, Honduras' growth rate would increase by 7 percent each year. In 10 years, Honduras would have increased its per capita income and poverty levels would have been drastically reduced to less than 50 percent of the population. It all depends on our capability to sustain our growth rates, which is what we are proposing now. For a long time our growth rate was circumstantial; now it is structural growth. It could be stable and permanent, depending on our investment levels. The investment levels in this government are quite acceptable and encouraging.

I reiterate, if we had a growth rate of between 7 and 8 percent, we could double our per capita income in 10 years. With our current economic growth rate, which is more or less 1 or 2 percent above our rate of population growth, it would take us at least 25 years to reach those levels.

[Reporter] You have said Honduras is a poor country and will continue to be a poor country....

[Callejas, interrupting] No, I never said it will continue to be a poor country. I said it has been a poor country. I said it has the opportunity to make great improvements.

[Reporter] Thank you. [passage omitted]

U.S. Accused of Pressuring for Telecommunications Law

PA0208222793 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] The controversial authors' rights law is currently being studied by a National Congress commission. Many do not support the law because it appears that attempts are being made to maliciously pressure the Honduran Government, thereby violating our sovereignty and the Constitution, according to National Congress President Rodolfo Iriarte Navas.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is the context of this law? What is its aim?

[Iriarte Navas] The truth of the matter is that there has been a great deal of speculation, a great deal of disinformation about this author's rights law. I want to clearly state that the bill has been under debate for the past 20 days at the commission. It is a very long law, it contains approximately 100 articles, many of them very complicated. According to what the commission members have told me—because I have not studied the law, I want to be very clear on this—it has many legal irregularities. It has a number of unconstitutional articles that cannot be approved just like that.

I understand there is pressure from international institutions for Honduras to approve this law or we will lose a number of benefits. This is why I have commanded the commission to work overtime on this law. There is very good will on the part of Congress to approve this law. But, I repeat, we cannot approve a law that has numerous flaws. It would be worse to approve it in its present form than to wait a few more days, to study it further, and then enact a law that will be more beneficial for all the Honduran people.

[Reporter] We understand there is a great deal of international pressure concerning this matter so Congress cannot act quickly to approve a law that takes away even the right, for example, of a person who has a radio station to air music or to use a song as a theme for a special program.

[Iriarte Navas] Yes, undoubtedly, major pressure is being exerted. I have seen letters sent by the U.S. Commerce Department, through the U.S. Embassy, to the Economy Ministry demanding approval of this law. They clearly state that if this law is not approved a number of trade benefits with the United States will be canceled. I understand these types of situations; I truly regret this. In my opinion, our nations' sovereignty should be respected a little more. But we depend on them, we must acknowledge that we practically live off the aid the international institutions grant us. These quote friendly nations unquote that do us favors are always waiting for a greater favor in return.

[Reporter] You were saying that many of these articles are unconstitutional. In what sense for example? Would it be the freedom of a media owner? For example, the way a communications media person, a businessman, or an investor exploits cable television or the use of television channels?

[Iriarte Navas] It is not only this. I want to make this very clear. When the debate on this law started it was basically about cable television. Subsequently, I have been told—I repeat, I have not studied the law—that if the owner of a radio station airs a record he will have to pay royalties to the producer of that record. We consider this as practically impossible and illogical. For example: at the university if one student usually purchases a book and then makes photocopies so a friend can use it, this is totally prohibited. There are numerous regulations that we consider inconceivable as, to a certain extent, Honduran sovereignty is being violated.

I have said on many occasions that it is unfair or that these international institutions are unfair when they demand these requirements from Honduras. For example, with regard to the cable signal, I have heard many times the media or the Cable Association directors say they have not refused to pay. The problem is that many cable companies do not want to sell their transmissions to Honduras. I would then say, why does the United States not demand that these persons block the signal being transmitted and not give it to Honduras? If the signal is being received in Honduras, Honduras could protest that the U.S. signal is being sent here. They do not see this side of the story, they only look out for their interests and they take advantage of these nations' economic weakness to impose their will, as they have always done.

[Reporter] Will we have a radio law in keeping with Honduran interests and not the interests of other nations?

[Iriarte Navas] I have said very clearly that this is our wish. We are going to enact this law because it has to be done. We believe it can be beneficial, even for many Hondurans, in keeping with the nation's interests. We should not be forced to accept conditions that at times are even painful and shameful for our country. We are going to pass a law that is vital to Honduran interests. [end recording]

What the Congress president said is very clear. We cannot approve a law conditioned to the economic interests of another nation or because of U.S. State Department pressure through the Commerce Department or the U.S. Embassy. Numerous documents have been sent to the Honduran Government demanding the approval of a whimsical law that does not meet the realities of our nation's media nor any other type of realities that have to do with author's rights.

Nicaragua

Cooperation Minister Terms U.S. Aid Freeze 'Worrisome'

PA0308131493 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] The bad intention of the (Heine) Amendment is evident, Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger said on 2 August, after noting the Nicaraguan Government had already requested the aid of the U.S. Government in fighting international terrorism. He also voiced concern over the retention of aid since the country's economic development for this year, as happened the year before, is paralyzed because foreign aid is not being disbursed. Here is Erwin Kruger.

[Begin recording] [Kruger] [Words indistinct] and we are concerned because that would freeze all disbursements of U.S. aid as happened last year. I find this worrisome because part of last year's no-growth problem stemmed from the delay in the disbursements [10-second break in reception] if we had received that money in May, as planned [four-second break in reception] last year. Now, the same thing happens [five-second break in reception] for that reason it would definitely cause us problems again.

That is why this is worrisome to us. As Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal said, we had already explained to them and were resolving the matter they mention in their statements of concern. We even invited them to help us resolve this problem of international terrorism, since this does not just involve Nicaragua but many other countries. We are concerned because some sectors introduced this amendment in a fashion that seems to me a little ill-intended since senators were put in a position that (?to oppose) the amendment was to defend terrorism in the United States. We, as a government, are as opposed to and condemn terrorism as they do. But I think someone introduced the topic in an ill-intended fashion. Of course, I hope it does not succeed. I hope this is worked out because we are greatly concerned, as the Foreign Ministry stated.

For that reason, we have gone through other crises in the past and will react maturely. We are inviting all governments to react in a mature, serious, and responsible manner. We have a delicate situation. We are (?involved) in an extremely important political transformation. I think that July has presented the clear options available to Nicaragua. I would like to be very clear on this point. What did we see in July? On (?11) July there was a Liberal rally, and on 19 July there was a Sandinist rally.

There were two rallies of two different views in which the people were able to move with total freedom. They were able to walk with total ease. They gathered with total freedom. And these two rallies were public demonstrations. Each group defended its own viewpoints, but they were public demonstrations without any kind of fear. The two groups were absolutely free to criticize [word indistinct] to criticize the government.

The liberals and Sandinist were free to say what the thought of the government. They did this in public freely, and peacefully. This is the stance of the Nicaraguan Government. This is the freedom we want in Nicaragua. We do not want violence. We want the spirit of nonviolence. We want everybody to express freely his views. This counters the culture of death, violence, bank holdups, robberies of institutions, in sum, the culture of death. For that reason, Nicaragua can either go through a process of political reconciliation, which is what public rallies or demonstrations where people are free to voice their views or criticize are, or through a confrontation which is what the war in Esteli is.

We have to ask: What path do they want? Do they want to encourage reconciliation—granted differences will always exist—or confrontation through violence and death. It is very important to say that July gave Nicaraguans an example of clearly defined choices. Either a life of nonviolence and liberty or a life of violence and death [words indistinct] or confrontation. [end recording]

Social Democratic Party's Cesar on Gen Ortega's Removal

PA0308210993 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1529 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Managua, 2 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—General Humberto Ortega's removal from the Army "would be one of the strong measures" that the Nicaraguan Government must adopt to "persuade" the U.S. Congress to release the economic aid being withheld from Nicaragua, social democrat leader Alfredo Cesar has said.

In statements to private television station Channel 8, Cesar, former Nicaraguan National Assembly president, said that in addition to removing Ortega, President Chamorro must accept the fact that the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) is investigating the case of the secret arsenal discovered in Managua last May.

In addition to sophisticated weaponry, including 19 missiles, a secret file containing documents that would be used by an international gang to allegedly kidnap Latin American personalities was found in this weapons cache.

Cesar, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, warned that President Chamorro "is gambling her future in the next two months," because the "immediate" removal of Ortega "would save the country and if that measure is not adopted, the U.S. Congress would not reverse its actions."

On 28 July the U.S. Senate approved a resolution withholding a $103-million economic aid package from Nicaragua until President Clinton certifies that no Nicaraguan official has ties to terrorism.

Cesar said that the restriction imposed on the U.S. aid came at a time when there is great concern abroad over the lack of control of civilian rule over the military in this country and during the recovery of the economy.

According to Cesar, the government's situation has become further complicated because, given the U.S. Congress' decision to freeze the delivery of aid to Nicaragua in May of 1992, Chamorro sent a letter to authorities in Washington voicing her intention to order Ortega's retirement in November of 1995.

"As part of the dialogue on the modernization of the state, if there is a proposal on organizing and operating the Armed Forces," the Sandinist Front "is willing to discuss it," Sandinist leader Bayardo Arce has said.

"What we cannot accept, and it is something that is implicit in the U.S. demands, is the government telling us what we must do," Arce added in statements to ACAN-EFE.

"I think that if the United States wants to impose on us the removal of Gen. Ortega and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo or the stripping of privileges from Deputy Humberto Castilla or Vice President Godoy to disburse the aid, we would have to reject it," Arce said.

"We, Nicaraguans, must solve our own problems," insisted Arce, one of nine members of the Sandinist Board.

Business Council Urges Investigation of Esteli Attack

PA0408005193 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Aug 93 p 2

[Letter to Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro from Ramiro Gurdian Ortiz, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise; date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, constitutional president of the Nicaraguan Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and of national security.

Your excellency: Since your assumption of the presidency of the Republic, our organization has reiterated its great concern for finding solutions to our problems. We have been unable to settle on a political and economic formula that would eliminate the causes of the crisis that condemn our people to live in a state of extreme poverty.

Two recent criminal incidents have shocked the nation's consciousness; both were condemned and rejected by the people and by friendly nations trying to help us. But their efforts are useless in light of the following:

1. The attack and takeover of Esteli on 21 July 1993 by the self-styled Peasant-Worker Revolutionary Front rebel forces comprised of former Sandinist soldiers. This incident left an unspecified number of dead, wounded, and captured and inflicted large losses.

According to radio, television, and the press, for example an article published in LA PRENSA on 27 July, there is a "strong possibility that high-level Army officials were involved in the attack..."

Your excellency, the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (Cosep) shares these points of view and considers it mandatory that you, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, determine who was responsible for this crime. This is why, with the greatest respect, we ask that an investigation be mounted, that those responsible be brought to trial, and that those found guilty be punished regardless of rank. Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra and National Police Commander Fernando Caldera should not participate in this investigation in order that it might be as crystal clear and as transparent as possible.

2. The discovery of the weapons caches, a salient example of which is the Santa Rosa explosion in Managua, has exposed the Nicaraguan people to punishment via the withholding of economic aid from the United States, other nations, and international institutions. This situation will remain the same until conditions demanded by the U.S. Senate are met regarding these criminal and terrorist actions that go beyond our borders.

Your excellency, the nation's honor and sovereignty rest with you, as do the peoples' needs, which are very much above personal interests. Therefore, you act quickly to make it clear to the Nicaraguan people and to the international community that we live in law-abiding state that hunts down, captures, and punishes criminals.

Sincerely,

Cosep

[Signed] Ramiro Gurdian Ortiz, president

Panama

Poll Reflects Uncertainty in Backing of Political Parties

PA0408030893 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 2 Aug 93 p 1A

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] A CID/Gallup poll conducted for EL PANAMA AMERICA shows 43 percent of the Panamanian people are still uncertain about which political party to choose, but the Arnulfist Party and the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] have the most support among citizens who have already made up their minds.

The nationwide poll conducted during the first half of July reveals that the party [Arnulfist Party] led by Mireya Moscoso de Gruber has "more followers"—16 percentage points.

The poll reveals the Arnulfist Party "has a stronger" following among people with a primary school education or less, but its popularity drops among citizens with a high school, or higher, education.

The second most popular party is the PRD, with 14 percentage points in the CID/Gallup poll.

Singer-writer Ruben Blades' Papa Egoro party comes in third place with 10 percentage points. This party has the most followers among people with a higher education.

Other parties preferred by the people include the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, with 9 percentage points; the Christian Democratic Party, with 6 percentage points; and the Liberal Party, with 2 percentage points.

There are 21 parties—either established or in the formative stage—in Panama, but only six were included by people in the preference scale.

The CID/Gallup poll revealed that two out of five Panamanians "have not chosen a political party or are still undecided."

Nevertheless, the antiparty attitude is on the decline compared to a previous poll conducted in March. The percentage of undecided was then 59 percent, whereas it is now 43 percent.

Referring to the people's participation in the 1994 elections, almost half of the people polled believe there will be a higher voter turnout than in the 15 November 1992 referendum, which reflected a high degree of abstentionism.

PRD and Papa Egoro supporters are most certain about their participation in the next electons. Those less certain about their participation are still undecided.

Salsa Singer Tops List

PA0408034493 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Aug 93 p1a

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Panamanians believe that singer and composer Ruben Blades would garner the most votes in a presidential elections, whereas Vice President Guillermo Ford and Arnulfist Party [PA] President Mireya Moscoso de Gruber would come in second and third, respectively.

Those results are contained in the latest national survey conducted by the CID/Gallup company for EL PANAMA AMERICA. The survey includes opinions on the 1994 elections and the popularity of political figures.

In this poll, Blades got 20 percent; Ford, 11 percent; Moscoso, 10 percent; suspended Panama City Mayor Omaira Correa, 7 percent; Democratic Revolutionary Party presidential candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares, 6 percent; former Panama Canal Deputy Administrator Fernando Manfredo, 4 percent; Christian Democratic Party President [PDC] Ricardo Arias Calderon, 3 percent; and PDC Legislator Gloria Moreno de Lopez, 1 percent.

The majority of those polled—31 percent—have not made up their minds yet on who should be the president.

The view that Blades should be the next president is at odds with the choice of political parties, since the PA came in first, the PRD, second, and Papa Egoro's [Blades' party], third. As for politicians who are regarded favorably, Mayor Correa topped the list of 15 persons mentioned by the CID/Gallup poll to those surveyed.

Correa—who came in fourth in the terms of choice for president—had a favorable rating of 52 percent and an unfavorable rating of 35 percent. Ruben Blades came in second with a favorable rating of 41 percent and a unfavorable rating of 36 percent.

Next came a list of politicians who, with the exception of Fernando Manfredo, have a higher unfavorable than favorable rating. They include Vice President Ford who had 41 percent in favor and 44 percent against.

Manfredo has 34 percent in favor and 30 percent against; Moreno de Lopez, 27 percent in favor and 36 percent against; PDC Legislator Carlos Arellano Lennox, 27 percent in favor and 39 percent against; Moscoso, 27 percent in favor and 49 against; President Guillermo Endara, 26 percent in favor and 61 percent against; Arias Calderon, 24 percent in favor and 60 percent against.

Those surveyed also expressed their political views on the following: Perez Balladares had 21 percent in favor and 47 percent against; Housing Minister Guillermo Quijano, 20 percent in favor and 40 against; Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo, 18 percent in favor and 41 percent against; PRD leader Alfredo Oranges, 15 percent in favor and 39 percent against; businessman Samuel Lewis Galindo, 13 percent in favor and 36 percent against; and National Renewal Movement leader Pedro Vallarino, 12 perecent in favor and 33 percent against.

PRD Chooses Candidate

PA0208185693 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Aug 93 p 1

[Article by Elio Rujano]

[Text] On 31 July the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) chose Ernesto Perez Balladares as its presidential candidate for the 1994 elections during the PRD national convention at the ATLAPA Convention Center. The PRD, which was the political arm of the military regime, also commemorated the 12th anniversary of the death of its founder, Omar Torrijos Herrera. Torrijos died in a plane crash.

Party members gave Perez Balladares 1,231 votes, which earned him the victory over fellow nominees Alfredo

Oranges and Rigoberto Paredes, who garnered 389 and 30 votes respectively. Paredes, a former legislator and one of Noriega's close collaborators, said he was proud to be there and to know that the courts have issued an arrest warrant against him, which the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) should carry out. [sentence as published]

Party delegates and guests began to arrive the morning of 31 July from such distant places as the Kuna Yala Indian reservation, and Darien, Bocas del Toro, and Chiriqui Provinces. The convention ended around 1730.

In a speech to accept his nomination and using the slogan "Power to the People", Perez Balladares accused the government of President Guillermo Endara, Vice President Guillermo Ford, and former Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon of being a government that was "sworn in" on the Fort Clayton military base practically "on top of the victims of the U.S. invasion". The PRD presidential hopeful also said that the government has not paid appropriate attention to the Public Forces and that government officials do not hide their dislike and mistrust of the National Police and the PTJ.

Representatives of the Institutional Revolutionary Party of Mexico, the Popular Nationalist Party, the Labor Party, the Association of Relatives of Invasion Casualties, and other organizations were among the special guests at the convention.

Endara Reviews Efforts on Behalf of Low-Income Groups

PA0208162693 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Weekly address by Panamanian President Guillermo Endara in Panama City on 30 July—live or recorded]

[Text] As president of all Panamanians, particularly the needy, it is my duty to steer my administration in the fight against poverty. I have implemented, among other things, three measures directed at benefiting the poorest and neediest sectors of the population.

It is very important that you know that more than 200,000 low-income workers in our country have seen increases in their incomes thanks to the three important actions: the decree increasing the minimum wage, which had not been revised in the last decade; the Tax Reform Law promulgated last December; and the creation of the Social Emergency Fund, FES.

Today more than 45,000 workers who were earning a minimum wage of 162 balboas per month are getting a raise of over 40 balboas. They also no longer have to pay income taxes. Now, these 45,000 Panamanians have 590 balboas more per year. This permits them to overcome their extreme poverty.

But we have done more than increase the minimum wage. Now over 155,000 workers who earn monthly wages of 290 balboas or less do not have to pay income taxes. These two measures alone permitted 200,000 Panamanians to retain an additional income of over 40 million balboas per year, which will improve their economic situation while increasing their purchasing power. This will ultimately contribute to the nation's economic recovery.

My government changed the income tax payment procedure, taking into consideration the need for social justice in this regard. In addition, my government decreed the largest minimum wage increase in our country's history. This will benefit those who earn less, while fiscal revenues will decrease.

Meanwhile, the FES—created in 1990 to implement plans for providing employment opportunities to the needy—has set up more than 1,124 projects, benefiting 65 percent of the country's corregimientos in depressed rural and urban areas, affecting approximately 600,000 Panamanians. This was achieved with an investment of over 24.5 million balboas in coordination with the Catholic Church, civic groups, and nongovernment organizations. These actions have created about 30,000 jobs, including temporary and permanent jobs.

Given the success of the FES, we are now programming investments of over 49 million balboas for projects in depressed areas. Also for the first time ever, the government has taken steps to benefit Guaymi Indian groups, for which the FES has earmarked investments totalling 14 million balboas.

The 600,000 Panamanians who have benefited from the aforesaid measures are proof of my concern for the needs of workers in low-income areas around the country. No one has pressured me with strikes or marches into adopting these decisions. It was a commitment to my conscience, and I fulfilled it. So long.

Ford Admits Changes in Constitution Necessary

PA3107015493 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Jul 93 p A3

[Article by Orlando Mendieta C. and Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Vice President Guillermo Ford has admitted the need to change the current Constitution but warned that he will not endorse the changes if they are made using unconstitutional methods.

"The general feeling is that we must make important changes to the Constitution. But we must not forget that there are only two means that may be used to make these changes: a plebiscite and consecutive approval by two Legislative Assemblies," Ford stated.

Ford said that the important thing is to seek changes to the Constitution by means that will not violate it, because he believes the Army should be abolished in Panama. The vice president said the government is

committed to defending the Canal and this should not be used as an excuse to create an army.

The vice president said he believes changes should be made, especially because he does not think the people want to continue living with a constitution that was drafted in 1972. The people would prefer to have a new constitution.

"We all agree that we must change the Constitution in accordance with the guidelines established in the current Constitution," Ford concluded.

Arrigo Guardia, president of the National Integration Movement (MINA), has said that if Panama wants to move toward a modern state, with new men and with a vision of a different government, then the Constitution must be changed.

"We believe that a Constituent Assembly is necessary so that we may have an instrument that will allow everyone to move toward a great national dialogue without resentment or hate," Guardia added.

Guardia believes in a fundamental law that will encompass overall changes that will allow the Panamanian people to reach the 21st Century with new hope.

The political leader calls for a new state, with changed institutions, that will give way to a new Republic in which all Panamanians will be taken into consideration.

Vice President Ford Denies Privatization Plan Failed

PA3007163793 Panama City Circuito RPC Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Vice President Guillermo Ford, coordinator of the government's state economic program, denied that the privatization plan is being affected negatively by a lack of political willingness. Here is what Guillermo Ford said:

[Ford] "I believe there has been a lack of determination, maybe a lack of information, and a great deal of vested interests from specific groups that oppose privatization to hold on to certain privileges. I do not think it is the time to analyze if something has failed or not, what is important is to start the privatization."

Ford's reaction is in the wake of comments by Pedro Brin, former president of the National Privatization Commission, who said that the lack of political willingness is preventing the normal development of privatization. In Ford's opinion, what is important is to start to privatize the institutions. In this regard, progress has been made in cases of companies such as Citricos de Chiriqui and Cemento Bayano, although Ford himself does not label this process a success.

[Ford] "Now, based on the errors made or the failures that could have been made in the past, we are restructuring and we will proceed with the privatization program."

Since a privatization framework law exists, the road is open for this process to be implemented. Meanwhile, Ford explained that the change of structure would not increase unemployment in the country.

[Ford] "Privatization itself does not imply that workers will be fired. This belief departs from a notion that privatization means the firing of workers. This is the song of the siren of some union leaders who oppose the privatization system due to very personal interests."

Nevertheless, Ford accepted that in certain cases such as the Metropolitan Sanitation Directorate, it was planned to keep the same number of employees but not the same employees. The reason is you cannot impose on the private purchasing company to assume the responsibility of workers who produce little.

[Ford] "The Panamanian worker should not fear. If he is a good, serious, responsible worker, why should he fear losing his job. What occurs is that there are many good-for-nothings who want to continue being employed."

Mexican Envoy Links Crude Oil Supply to Debt Settlement

PA0308231693 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Report by Jenny Lee Martinez]

[Text] Panama will have to present a proposal for payment of its oil debt; otherwise, it will be unable to get any oil under the terms of the San Jose Pact, Jose Ignacio Gutierrez, Mexican ambassador to Panama, has told Radio KW Continente.

The San Jose Pact will be ratified on 3 August. It establishes that Venezuela and Mexico will supply oil to Central American and Caribbean countries. However, Gonzalo Gamero, director of International Affairs in the Venezuelan Ministry of Mines and Energy, has said that Panama will not get any oil until it settles its debts with Venezuela and Mexico.

Jose Ignacio Gutierrez, Mexican ambassador to Panama, has commented on this situation.

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] Panama is part of the San Jose Pact. However, Panama has accumulated a debt of approximately $115 million, and oil shipments have been suspended. Panama used to be one the best customers for oil shipped under the terms of the San Jose Pact. We sold them approximately 13,000 barrels of oil per day—until Panama's debt grew.

Both governments have decided to begin negotiations on the debt in an effort to bring payments up to date.

[Unidentified reporter] Does this mean that payment formulas are being considered?

[Gutierrez] Yes. Panama will have to make a proposal for payment of the debt. Conversations have already begun, and a Panamanian delegation traveled to Mexico in March to meet with Mexican financial authorities responsible for collecting the payments.

[Reporter] When will an agreement be reached on debt repayment? Have you maintained contacts in this regard with Panamanian authorities?

[Gutierrez] It is very likely that in the next two or three months the Binational Commission will meet again to analyze a new proposal that may be presented by Panama regarding its debt with Mexico and make the opening of Mexico's financial market possible. This may interest Mexican businessmen in investing in some Panamanian infrastructure projects.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, for the time being, what will Panama's status be with regard to the San Jose Pact?

[Gutierrez] Well, Panama is still part of the San Jose Pact. But there haven't been any oil shipments lately, not because it's impossible but because Panama has said it does not want to buy more oil and run up up its debt. Panama first wants to address the payment or refinancing of its debt and will later sit down to talk to Mexico about oil supplies. [end recording]

Venezuela and Mexico will put equal shares of 160,000 barrels of crude oil at the disposal of Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. But if our country does not settle its debts, the oil supply will be cut off.

Argentina

Bill on Referendum on Reelection Announced

PY0308212093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1348 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Aug (NA)—President Carlos Menem this morning approved an initiative by the bloc of Justicialist deputies, who proposed to send Congress a bill calling for a plebiscite or consultation that will include, among other aspects, questions on whether voters would like to reform the Constitution and whether they would agree to the reelection of the president.

This announcement was made by Jorge Matzkin, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies bloc, after a working breakfast the president had with the legislators. During the meeting, it was agreed that the plebiscite will be held "after 3 October and before 31 December." Efforts will be made to approve the bill this month.

Matzkin also announced that a bill will be sponsored for eliminating taxes on assets as of 1 January 1994.

Bolivia

Commentary on U.S. Southern Command Chief's Bolivia Visit

PA0208030293 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Jul 93

["Our America" commentary by Ignacio Canel]

[Text] Bolivian civilian groups viewed the recent visit by U.S. Southern Command Chief General George Joulwan with mistrust and apprehension. During his visit, Gen. Joulwan again insisted on militarizing the struggle against drug trafficking, which has been so much criticized.

During his three days in Bolivia, the U.S. Southern Command chief travelled through the famous Chapare region, the main coca leaf growing region. Before departing for Panama, the site of U.S. Southern Command headquarters, Joulwan said that drug trafficking is a crime that undermines a nation's sovereignty and must be confronted not only by police but also by armed forces.

Bolivian media devoted considerable coverage to the high-ranking U.S. military officer's tour and agreed in stating that the visit may have been intended to pressure the government into ordering military intervention in the struggle against drug trafficking. For some time now this same issue has created controversy in Bolivia.

It should not be forgotten that a few years ago the country had to tolerate the unwanted presence of U.S. military troops who, claiming social projects as a pretext, remained for several months in a region where the main coca plantations are located.

In light of the adverse reactions to the presence of U.S. troops in Bolivia, they left the country. But the Bolivian Army regularly conducts incursions into the coca regions. It is said that so far the Bolivian Armed Forces' participation in the struggle against drug trafficking is limited to providing logistical support to police units in charge of direct actions against what has been termed illegal production and drug trafficking.

The possibility that the United States may pressure the government, which in turn will be forced to bring the military into its efforts against drug trafficking, is not being dismissed.

Any time the controversy flares surrounding the struggle against drug trafficking in Bolivia, most people remember the poor international support received by President Jaime Paz Zamora's proposal to substitute for coca leaves another crop that may offer the peasants an equal standard of living.

More than 100,000 Bolivian families depend on growing coca leaf, and if the objective is for these peasants to abandon this activity, then some type of substitute that will allow then to get by must be offered. President Paz Zamora proposed just that.

The Bolivian president has maintained this position during his entire presidential term and has even explained it at summit conferences. Unfortunately, he has not received any reply from developed nations such as the United States, the largest drug consumer in the world.

The visit by the U.S. Southern Command chief also rekindles discussions related to the U.S. habit of insisting that efforts against drug trafficking always originate outside its territory, while U.S. internal demand continues to grow.

Everything indicates that the struggle against drug trafficking will be one of the nation's main problems that Bolivian President-elect Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada will have to confront.

Brazil

Bolivian President-Elect Interviewed

PY0308220293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Aug 93 Economy and Finances Section p 6

[Interview with Bolivian President-Elect Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada by ESTADO NEWS AGENCY correspondent Vladimir Goitia in La Paz on 25 July]

[Text] [Goitia] The international community has acknowledged that, for many years, Bolivia has enjoyed political stability and economic growth. And yet, despite these positive results, the country continues to be one of the poorest in the hemisphere, and indeed in the world. How do you intend to change this situation?

[Sanchez de Lozada] We have a program, the Plan for All, which was part of the election campaign and which will be transformed into a government program. The bottom-line is to combat poverty. We will capitalize state-owned enterprises; 51 percent of the shares will go to the Bolivian people and 49 percent to private investors, who will be entitled to manage the company. Thus, we intend to increase the incomes of poor people. We estimate that the capitalization of state-owned enterprises, which are currently valued at $2 billion, will raise the GDP [gross domestic product] by at least one-third. We want more capital and technology, and better management. We are a poor country and we need more capital.

[Goitia] Does this capitalization entail selling state-owned enterprises to private companies and to Bolivian citizens?

[Sanchez de Lozada] It will be very different from privatization. For Latin American Governments, the privatization of state-owned companies entails spending the proceeds. The investor in privatizations is nearly always a foreigner who buys the company's assets and then has to invest even more money to streamline the company and make it productive. In other words, investors must buy and invest. We want companies to belong to the people who will be able to sell their shares to other Bolivians. We want to implement popular participation. We intend to give that capital back to the poor people and thus narrow the gap between rich and poor. The Bolivian people, rather than the government—in which political issues have a bearing on the company's management—will be partners of foreign investors.

[Goitia] But how will the people have access to those shares?

[Sanchez de Lozada] We believe that the total value of the shares of each Bolivian will range between $1,000 and $1,500. That is not much for some, but it is a decent amount for poverty-stricken people. The community will receive that money and can use it as collateral for rural credits, for sowing, or for irrigation projects, for example. For a few, that money will lift them from poverty. We are well aware that this will not work like magic, yet we want an annual growth rate of at least 8-10 percent by keeping inflation under 10 percent. It is impossible to consider growth rates of over 4 percent while we continue to be a poor country with unemployment and low wages.

[Goitia] How will the distribution going to made?

[Sanchez de Lozada] The shares will be distributed free of charge to people over 21 years of age. We are still studying how to implement it—maybe through foundations or pension plans. This is an interesting idea because it will serve to capitalize companies that belong to Bolivians.

[Goitia] What sectors will be capitalized?

[Sanchez de Lozada] Energy (oil and electrical energy), mining, telecommunications, air and rail transport. For example, if we capitalize Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (the Bolivian equivalent of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation]) we will obtain the financial resources to build a gas pipeline to Sao Paulo State. Our main project is to transport gas to that state. We will also have the resources to drill more oil and natural gas wells, and to build oil refineries. As for electrical energy, we want to take advantage of our topography and build hydroelectric dams. This will enable us to sell electricity to Argentina, Peru, and Chile.

[Goitia] Will Congress approve these projects?

[Sanchez de Lozada] Although I did not obtain an absolute majority during the recent elections, the difference between my number of votes and the second most voted candidate was so great that a national consensus was formed. This consensus has, of course, created great expectations which is very worrisome because it is hard to please everyone. I have strong Congressional support right now for the economic program. I will thus be unable to blame Congress or my party if the plans fail. Since the solution to economic and social problems stems from a political solution, we want to take advantage of the democratic consensus we have so far. But this could all fall through if we do not obtain economic growth and social justice. It is all interrelated. We already have one of the three component a modern society requires, now we must attain the other two. The challenge ahead of us is to change Bolivia from a problem country into a miracle country.

[Goitia] What plans do you have for the agricultural and agroindustrial sectors?

[Sanchez de Lozada] For the next four years we hope to invest at least $1 billion per year in technical aid—that is, six times more than what has been invested in past years. This will prevent peasants from migrating to the cities. According to FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations] data, investments in Bolivian rural areas does not amount to more than 0.4 percent of total investments in Bolivia during the past 30 years.

Unfortunately, rural sectors of almost all Latin American countries suffer this type of discrimination. We want this sector to have the necessary infrastructure, like new highways and railroads to get their products to urban centers. We cannot underestimate the value of the Tiete-Parana waterway through which we will be able to export our agricultural products.

[Goitia] Is Bolivia considering joining Mercosur [Common Market of the South]?

[Sanchez de Lozada] Traditionally, we have always belonged to the Andean region. Geographically speaking, Bolivia is located in the center of Latin America. During a recent interview with President Itamar Franco, he asked me whether I preferred Mercosur or the Andean

Market. I answered that our future lay in Brazil, Argentina, and Mercosur, and that our heart will always lie in the Andean market. Bolivia is a bit like Jorge Amado's [Brazilian author] character Dona Flor [who lived with her second husband and the ghost of her first husband in the film entitled The Two Husbands of Dona Flor].

[Goitia] What can Bolivia offer Brazil to balance its trade balance?

[Sanchez de Lozada] Natural gas, minerals (lead, gold, silver, tin), beer, and soybean. In the case of soybean, for example, it is more convenient and cheaper for Brazil to export its production from the areas near the Atlantic and to import what it needs for the Bolivian border regions. Bolivia represents no threat to Brazilian industry. I believe a sincere and positive effort should be made by the two countries to improve their commercial and economic ties.

[Goitia] How do you intend to solve the drug-trafficking problem?

[Sanchez de Lozada] We will make a decided effort to eradicate coca plantations. We believe economic growth will help to create job opportunities outside the drug-trafficking sphere, a move that the peasants have needed for some time. The international community has not acknowledged our achievements. We want to increase the interdiction of this product with Brazil. We are aware this problem is ours, but we need the cooperation of other countries. We are very frightened. If our economy grows faster than it has during the past few years, the drug-trafficking problem could become and even greater problem. So far drug traffickers ship their profits abroad. We will run into very serious problems if they start investing here.

Bahia, Ceara Governors Support Economic Policy

PY0408025393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco and Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso met here this afternoon at Planalto Palace with Ceara and Bahia Governors Ciro Gomes and Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, respectively, to listen to their opinions and suggestions about the measures the government has adopted for fighting inflation. The meeting began with a briefing by Cardoso.

Antonio Carlos Magalhaes said he was satisfied with the meeting, that he liked it, that he supports some of the measures for stabilizing the economy, and that President Franco has rightly demanded the resignation of the ministers who want to run in the 1994 elections.

Giro Gomes said the Franco administration's economic policy is on the right course, but the government, in order to be able to eliminate inflation, must fight with extreme rigor all those who engage in tax evasion, ranging from entrepreneurs to bankers and politicians, if necessary with prison sentences, so the country can put an end to inflation.

Ciro Gomes said that Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, Paulo Maluf, Orestes Quercia, and former President Jose Sarney are like tax evaders on the economic policy because they are betting on chaos with an eye on the 1994 elections.

IMF Welcomes Brazilian Economic Policy

PY0408015093 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] The IMF has welcomed the government's plan for immediate action.

[words indistinct] optimistic about reaching an agreement with the IMF. The Finance Ministry economic policy secretary, Winston Fritsch, today reported the details of his trip to Washington to Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Planning Minister Alexis Stepanenko.

This first contact also made it possible for the government to create an interministerial technical group with representatives from the Finance, Social Security, and Planning Ministries who will meet with the IMF technical mission at the end of the month.

The secretary said the IMF welcomed the Brazilian Government's economic policy proposal, whose objective is to eliminate inflation and enforce a fiscal adjustment.

[Begin Fritsch recording] The main topics of the conversation with the IMF did not focus on figures, which will be addressed with the IMF mission in Brazil. Instead, the Washington meeting dealt much more with positions and policies. They were fully convinced—I met with the presidents of the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] and the World Bank, and with the IMF director general.... [pauses] I am fully convinced that the Brazilian position in favor of enforcing a strong fiscal adjustment and state reform, and of increasing public credit in the next six to eight months—making use of our possibility to design a fiscal adjustment within the context of a constitutional reform—is the main step to begin the fight against inflation. [end recording]

Fritsch said that if negotiations with the IMF develop in such a way that they can serve as an endorsement for an agreement between Brazil and its creditor banks, the Brazilian Government might conclude such an agreement by the end of the year.

Treasury Calculates Damage Caused by Previous 'Shocks'

PY0308224493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Aug 93 p 4

[Article by Ribamar Oliveira]

[Text] Brasilia—The national Treasury is calculating the damage caused by the six heterodox economic shock treatments conducted in the country since the Cruzado Plan. The first estimates made at the request of Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso show some figures that are alarming the economic area. Just the so-called debts owed to workers—a right demanded in court by state companies and direct administration employees—are estimated at $10 billion.

The heterodox packages prompted thousands of lawsuits by people and companies that felt their rights were harmed. National Finance Prosecutor General Edgar Lincoln Pereira Rosa said the research recently detected some 130,000 lawsuits in Rio de Janeiro alone.

This number does not include the tax actions contesting the collection of taxes. A complete survey will be conducted by the Counsel General's Office. Former Finance Minister Paulo Haddad said: "The industry of temporary restraining court orders is one of the byproducts of the heterodox shocks."

The shocks caused several distortions in public accounts. The major damage, however, took place in the labor area. Several plans left inflationary residues that were not transferred to pubic employees' salaries. Moreover, some shocks changed the method of calculating inflation and, with that, the transfers were lower than what they should have been.

The lawsuits demand that the federal government pay the 26.5 percent of the URP [Price Reference Unit] of the Bresser [former Economy and Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira] Plan that was not transferred to salaries, 55 percent of the Summar Plan of former Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega, and 84.32 percent that disappeared with the Collor Plan of former Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello.

Haddad said: "When I joined the government we made an estimate and verified that the Collor Plan's debts alone were greater than the net assets of the state companies where the employees were working."

If the courts uphold the lawsuits filed by direct administration public employees against the Bresser and Collor plans, the Federal Administration Secretariat (SAF) believes 132 trillion cruzeiros will be needed to pay the expenditures—more than the payroll of the direct administration workers, which amounts to 100 trillion cruzeiros.

Another distortion caused by the shocks has direct repercussions on tax collection. Former Minister Zelia Cardoso obtained a large tax collection in 1990, but she left a $13-billion problem for her successors. Zelia Cardoso corrected the companies' balances to calculate the income tax as an index much lower than the inflation rate.

Then Congress approved Law No. 8200 that allowed the businessmen to deduct values paid in excess in four years as of 1993. But the businessmen ended up deducting all at once, with the court's authorization.

The third distortion stems from the continuous price and tariff freezes. Many companies filed lawsuits against the federal government, especially those that depended on utility rates, arguing that they were damaged by price controls. This was the case, for instance, of the airline companies.

During the Cruzado Plan, air ticket prices, which were controlled by the government, were frozen. Before that, the government ordered a sharp fuel price increase. Tariffs were 30-percent behind in one year. The first and second courts already have upheld Transbrasil's petition demanding compensation of $450 million. Now the Superior Court decision is needed. The lawsuits submitted by Varig [Rio Grande do Sul Airline], VASP [Sao Paulo Airline], and TAM [Military Air Transport] amount to $1.2 billion.

The fourth distortion directly affected people in the financial market. Recent studies show there has been an "erosion" of the monetary correction used in the readjustments of those assets. There are thousands of lawsuits in the courts submitted by owners of savings accounts demanding the correction of 84.32 percent of the inflation in the Collor Plan's first month. The courts already have upheld some of them.

Chile

Aylwin, Romania's Iliescu Discuss Ties, World Issues

AU0308151893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1011 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 3/8/1993—After arriving in Chile for an official visit, President Ion Iliescu had a first round of talks with President Patricio Aylwin Azocar at La Moneda Palace.

"I have expressed the political decision to further the fine relations between our two countries motivated by Latinity, by effective closeness, by a joint interest to strengthen our achievements scored until now by most advantageous results", said Romania's head of state.

"A large number of businessmen representing renowned companies in Romania and abroad are here with me for direct contacts with Chilean partners for making prospects of what they can jointly operate in the immediate future and in best profitable conditions for both sides. The Bucharest delegation includes also men of art and letters whose rich schedule of interviews in Santiago de Chile will allow a better acquaintance and finding of new ways for collaboration.

"We reviewed together events in the international life of our concern and expressed our determination to

strengthen our collaboration in international bodies, to contribute politically and diplomatically to finding solutions to present crisis."

Asked to offer some details over the economic chapter analysed together with President Aylwin, Mr. Iliescu mentioned that the list of priorities included an intensification of commercial exchanges and diversification of forms of collaboration, starting from a proper knowledge of complementarities in the field of economy and a mutual turning to best account of the two countries' geographic advantages. Romania, favoured by its position at the Black Sea and on the Danube, having access to the centre of the continent and to countries in the proximity on one side, and Chile, on a continent where its membership to several alliances and understandings can become extremely useful, on the other.

Romania's president also met in Santiago de Chile with the two presidents of the Chilean Parliament, Gabriel Valdes and Jorge Molina and with the president of the Supreme Court of Justice.

The global framework of Romanian-Chilean bilateral relations is characterized by a steady solidarity and expanded collaboration, was the opinion of Romania's President Ion Iliescu and of the president of the Republic of Chile, Patricio Aylwin Azocar, during an interview in Santiago de Chile. Both heads of state agreed upon the need to maintain contacts at various levels and in different fields.

Both presidents are concerned with the conflict in the Balkans, especially as regards Bosnia-Herzegovina, agreeing on the need to search for emergency solutions to end and avoid confrontations that can lead to serious human loss.

Romania and Chile view as extremely important the liberalization of international trade and equal access to the world markets. They support the conclusion of the Uruguay Round that is currently under negotiations within GATT which must strive to avert protectionism, to ensure new possibilities of economic financing of the countries lagging behind. Both sides showed satisfaction over the convening by the United Nations of a top-level meeting on social development scheduled in Denmark in March 1995.

The president of Chile addressed Romania's president his thanks for his favourable position supporting a request advanced by the government in Santiago de Chile for the candidature of Mr. Rafael Moreno to the office as FAO [Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations] general director, in his quality as representative of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Various aspects were approached related to current developments in international life. Both presidents took a note of the important initiatives of the UN secretary general's suggested "peace agenda." The Romanian and the Chilean Governments are determined to actively support actions to lead to an interdiction of chemical weapons.

President Ion Iliescu and President Patricio Aylwin Azocar agreed on a procedure to list their assessments and stands in a joint Romanian-Chilean declaration to be signed by foreign ministers of both countries, Teodor Melescanu and Enrique Silva Cimma.

Iliescu Leaves for Colombia 3 Aug

PY0408025093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1953 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Santiago, 3 Aug (EFE)—Just before departing for Colombia, Romanian President Ion Iliescu today in Santiago defended democracy and the free-market economic system.

"A modern market economy must by obligation be accompanied by an overall democratic framework," but he admitted that he considers that in "the state, authorities must impose themselves during the initial phase of the launching of a program of transition and economic reforms, which are always irrevocably accompanied by social costs."

Thus, Iliescu clarified his remarks regarding the fact that authoritarian regimes, such as those of Augusto Pinochet in Chile and Francisco Franco in Spain, are the best during periods of social imbalance.

Regarding bilateral relations with Chile, Iliescu stated that there are encouraging prospects of increasing cooperation in bilateral trade, which can be implemented through the creation of joint enterprises. [passage omitted]

Iliescu has travelled to Bogota, the last stage of his Latin American trip, which also included visits to Argentina and Uruguay.

Silva: Renewing Diplomatic Ties With Bolivia Considered

PY0308213993 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva said that actually there was an idea of accepting the resumption of diplomatic relations with Bolivia during outgoing Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora's term of office.

Silva made this remark after a two-hour meeting with President Aylwin. Silva denied that his ministry's performance had been evaluated during the meeting. We talked about the Foreign Ministry organization bill, the foreign minister noted:

[Begin recording] In fact, during the period preceding [former Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald] Mr. MacLean's resignation, they often raised the possibility of diplomatic relations, but we always wanted to learn the next Bolivian Government's opinion.

We did not reject them, but we actually wanted to make sure that—if diplomatic relations were restored—we would not (?go through) the same situation that occurred before, namely that relations were restored and then severed a few months later. [end recording]

For us, the foreign minister concluded, relations with Bolivia are something reasonable, but within the limits of normalcy and permanence.

Says Ratification of Border Treaty 'Paralyzed'

PY0408011693 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma admitted this afternoon that ratification of the agreement on the continental glacier pending in the Chilean and Argentine congresses is currently stagnant.

Silva Cimma thus answered a question on the agreement signed by Presidents Patricio Aylwin and Carlos Menem, and which refers to one of the two pending border conflicts with Argentina. The treaty must be ratified by the two congresses.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] It seems that there is no intention to ratify this agreement until the electoral process is over in Argentina, but for the time being, discussions on this subject are paralyzed in the two countries. [end recording]

The foreign minister referred to the subject when interviewed by journalists at the Senate, where he participated in the Foreign Ministry Committee session to assess the convention on the 1929 Treaty signed by Chile and Peru last 11 May.

Colombia

Court Rules Against State of Internal Disturbance

PA0308200693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Excerpts] History repeats itself. Once again, hundreds of prisoners are about to be released.

A ruling by the Constitutional Court, that has just become official, will leave without effect the decree that one year ago prevented a massive release in all prisons. The authorities in the country are alarmed. Just at the Bella Vista Prison alone, at least 700 prisoners will receive the benefits of the ruling and might be released. [passage omitted]

The ruling that has been issued by the Constitutional Court is very serious, if one stops to consider that the government only has 24 hours to take emergency measures. The deadline for the state of internal disturbance expires on 4 August. This state was ordered by decree precisely to prevent the release of prisoners. [passage omitted]

Today, 3 August 1993, when there is only one day left for the expiration of the second period of the state of internal disturbance, the government has announced that it will request the extension of some decrees within that state.

It is inexplicable that after one year, the government has not been able to reform the Penal Code. In a few words, the situation is the same as it was over a year ago. According to the Constitutional Court, over 1,000 prisoners are about to be released from prison.

How will the national government cope with this new emergency? Ana Fernanda Valderrama spoke to the government minister:

[Begin recording] [Valderrama] Mr. Government Minister: Why is the government still wondering one year later, what to do to prevent the release of prisoners from jail?

[Government Minister Fabio Villegas] You are referring to an alleged ruling by the Constitutional Court, but we are not familiar with that ruling. I believe it is important to clarify that what the court is reviewing is not a decree that issued the powers under the state of internal disturbance. At that time, the decree was reviewed by the Constitutional Court, and the court itself declared the decree valid and in line with the Constitution.

What the court is reviewing at this time is the law that gave permanent validity to the norms that interpret Article 415 of the Code of Procedures.

[Valderrama] Mr. Minister, the Constitution says that the state of internal disturbance can be extended twice, and this has already been done. The deadline expires again on 4 August. What is going to be done?

[Villegas] Taking into consideration the Constitution, what we will do is extend for 90 days the validity of the decrees that we have issued empowered by the state of internal disturbance, while Congress studies the draft law that gives permanence to those norms that are part of an overall policy in public order, that has yielded results, and has shown it is qualified to cope with subversion and organized crime in Colombia.

[Valderrama] Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. [end recording]

Decree Expected To Invoke State of Internal Disturbance

PA0408021193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Report by Azucena Lievano and Raul Gutierrez]

[Text] For the second time, the government will prevent the mass release from Colombian jails of inmates charged with drug terrorism. The government resorted once again to an internal disturbance decree to counter the court's decision that declared unenforceable the

ruling that kept drug traffickers and narcoterrorists jailed without resolving their legal status.

This mass release could have occurred. Ochoa Vasquez, who has been behind bars for two years without trial would have been released, as would have been Francisco Galan, who has been under arrest for several months.

Nevertheless, the national government has a new decree ready that permits the Prosecutor General's Office to be more flexible and thorough in the handling of these cases. It has been learned that instead of the 180 days allowed in the Penal Code during which the status of those suspected of terrorism and drug trafficking should be resolved, 30 months will become the maximum time allowed for future cases. For those now under arrest, the Prosecutor General's Office will have only four to 12 months to complete its investigations.

This is the second time that the government has had to issue an internal disturbance decree to prevent the mass release of narcoterrorists from jail. This time it was to counter a Constitutional Court ruling based on the permanent law adopted by the National Congress. The practical effect of both the Constitutional Court ruling and the decree the national government will issue shortly is that the Prosecutor General's Office will expedite matters in order to ensure that Colombian justice does indeed work.

In view of the alarm caused by the impending release of 1,600 inmates, the Council of Ministers held an all-day session. We have a direct report from Raul Gutierrez at the Narino Presidential Palace. Good evening, Raul. What's the situation right now at Narino Palace?

[Gutierrez] Good evening. It is not really a Council of Ministers meeting. The president and his advisers held consultations, especially on points of legality, to draft the decree that has just been explained and will be issued within the next few minutes if we continue under these terms. In essence, it invokes a state of internal disturbance, which is still in effect tonight, but would expire tomorrow. Tonight's decree can be extended for the next 90 days, thus preventing hundreds of inmates from getting out of jail as a result of the correct application of the writ of habeas corpus, which the national constitution covers and sure to be invoked by defense lawyers. This neutralizes a situation that would have doubtless resulted in a very serious situation for justice and for the country's public order in general.

Minister Promises Measures to Prevent Criminals' Release

PA0408014793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Interview with Colombian Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez by Raul Gutierrez at the Justice Palace in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Gutierrez] Good evening, Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez. Please allow us to ask: What has the government decided to do in order to take control of the situation that has just arisen?

[Gonzalez] The government hereby reports that, in accordance with the constitution and the law, it will adopt all necessary, pertinent, and conducive measures to prevent criminals charged with drug trafficking, terrorism, or subversion from being released and evading justice. Consequently, in accordance with the constitution and the guidelines of a communique issued by the Constitutional Court, measures will be implemented in this regard. These measures will be revealed once the court's recent communique has been evaluated and analyzed.

[Gutierrez] Based on the state of internal disturbance?

[Gonzalez] Yes, if this is necessary and pertinent.

[Gutierrez] Will the government later insist that the Congress adopt the measure as permanent legislation, thus filling any juridical loopholes?

[Gonzalez] Yes.

Government's Emergency Measures Prevent Prisoner Release

PA0408035993 Paris AFP in Spanish 0322 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Santa Fe de Bogota, 3 Aug (AFP)—The Colombian Government adopted on 3 August emergency measures to prevent the large-scale release of criminals from prison as a result of the Constitutional Court decision that abolished certain restrictions concerning the implementation of the "habeas corpus."

Hector Riveros, presidential adviser for constitutional affairs, presented the decree to the media and said this will fill the juridical gap that the court ruling will create, establishing grounds for provisional release, which are more flexible than the ones which currently exist for crimes against public order. [passage omitted]

Prosecutor General Rejects Constitutional Court Ruling

PA0408022693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Report by Azucena Lievano]

[Text] Prosecutor General Gustavo de Grieff said in Cali on 3 August that the Constitutional Court ruling requesting equal treatment for all Colombian prisoners whose legal situation has yet to be solved is a mockery of justice. According to the Prosecutor General's Office, the Constitutional Court's ruling is very critical because it would result in a resumption of the war once criminals are released.

[Begin de Grieff recording] It would be very critical because once out of prison many of them will surely repeat their crimes, or they will disappear and mock justice. [end recording]

Nevertheless, experts on legal issues indicate there are other solutions. One of them is to resort to Law 30 of 1986 on the reduction of sentences and Article 299 of the Legal Procedures Law on the negotiation of prison sentences.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] That means the process for submission to justice will not suffer a serious setback. [end recording]

Former Constituent Assembly member Luis Guillermo Rojas said the government wants to replace ineffective justice with a human rights violation.

[Begin Rojas recording] Everyone in the world, all indicted people have the right to have their situations resolved. However, this does not happen in Colombia because justice—and the Attorney General's Office in this case—is ineffective. [end recording]

Government, Army Order Pipeline Protection Measures

PA0308233093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] The national government, Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise], and the Army have ordered a series of extreme measures to protect the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, always a guerrilla target. The pipeline was attacked four times over the weekend in Arauca Department. In view of the repetitive terrorist wave against the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline and the dynamite attack on the Saravena-Fortoul highway, an extraordinary security council has decided to establish control measures in the area.

The council asked civilian authorities to join in maintaining public security in the department. The council also requested penalizing royalties and asked that the Energy Ministry and Ecopetrol deduct the cost of repairing the pipeline from payments to municipalities where attacks occur.

[Begin General Alvaro Velandia, commander of the 16th Brigade, recording] We have tried several measures. One of them is to control the movement of people in the area, particularly at night when individuals dig holes in which to bury the dynamite meant to blow up the oil pipeline. [end recording]

In addition, Ecopetrol will be asked not to employ persons who reside in the vicinity of the attacks but to use instead the members of the Army Corps of Engineers. This measure seeks to diminish the apparent profit in setting up such attacks.

The oil pipeline has been attacked 23 times in 1993, 18 of which took place in Arauca Department.

Peru

Statistics Chief Reports Hike in Inflation

PA0308231393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Felix Murillo, chief of the National Statistics and Information Technology Institute, said today that the inflation index rose to 2.7 percent in July.

The 0.9-percent increase in inflation for July in comparison with June, from 1.8 to 2.7 percent, was due mostly to increases in public transportation fares, telephone service, potable water, fuel, and food, even though these factors were not taken into account until late July—that is, from the time the increase was recorded, around 22 July. According to Murillo, this explains the considerable divergence between these figures and those reported by the private sector. Consequently, inflation stands at 48.9 percent for the last 12 months and at 26.6 percent thus far in 1993.

[Begin Murillo recording] Inflation was 1.8 percent in June and 2.7 percent in July. Two factors are involved in this increase: In the first place, transportation fares rose 0.7 percent in June but are now up 3.6 percent. This does not completely reflect the effect of the increase recorded toward the end of July. Second, food and beverage prices increased 0.8 percent in June, but went up 2.9 percent in July, and markets remain at 3.2 percent. These two line items represent 70 percent of the basic necessities group and are major factors in determining growth rates. [end recording]

Felix Murillo warned that a 1-percent inflation rate has already been recorded for the first two days of August.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] So are we bound to have more than a 3-percent inflation rate in August?

[Murillo] Not necessarily. It is only up one point, and who knows? Maybe food prices won't go up, or maybe transportation fares will go down. We do not know what will happen. We cannot forecast the results for August until we have collected information for 30 days. [end recording]

Uruguay

Lacalle Discusses National Issues

PY0408015093 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 28 Jul 93 p 8

[Excerpts] Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle yesterday referred to several national issues that will be discussed during a lengthy interview he will grant to reporter Emiliano Cotelo in the "In Perspective" program to be aired by Radio CX 14 El Espectador. [passage omitted]

The reporter then asked President Lacalle to comment on the withdrawal of political groups that comprised the ministerial cabinet, including some National Party members.

Lacalle said that on 27 November 1989 he knew he would have a minority government. "Ours is a minority government as will be the next. Or do you not believe the next government will be a minority government? Well, then, let us not consider it a catastrophe."

He said that what happened to the current administration results from having tried to compensate with a mechanism "that is more or less provided for in the Constitution: the formation of a coalition majority government," although this coalition is not compulsory, it is totally voluntary where one can join or leave "because doors can be opened and closed since they have no locks."

The government is firm in the commitment it made before the elections, "which we are following exactly—to the extent that the word exactly is humanly understood, as closely as possible. We will continue it and we have not slowed down. There are those who supported us before but no longer do so; which does not imply either a constitutional catastrophe or a disruption."

When asked whether the Herreraist faction [of the National Party] should not be more flexible on some proposals, Lacalle answered: "Do you not think it has been flexible?" He added: "How has it achieved the votes then? For me this is very strange: If we are flexible they say that we are too flexible, disorganized, and that we comply with sectorial interests." He said: "I repeat that if this was fulfilled it is because someone supported it; part of the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch." As examples he mentioned the ports law and the law on public companies that was overwhelmingly approved by Congress.

"You can see we only made proposals; we feel that for being the majority we are the Executive Branch. Some people support us and some not, so who can ask them: Are you consistent in not continuing to support this when the Herreraist faction continues with the same ideas it proposed before the election? This question should be posed to them and not to us."

He was asked about the withdrawal of Vice President Aguirre from the cabinet and whether the Lacalle-Aguirre agreement was a bad option. He answered: "I think it was very good because we won, and the first priority of an electoral tickets is to win. In the implementation, I think the question of withdrawal must be asked of Dr. Aguirre."

He then was asked: "Would you make another agreement with Dr. Aguirre?" He answered: "I am not Dr. Aguirre's spokesman to justify his changes of opinion." When asked again whether he would make another agreement with Dr. Aguirre, Lacalle answered: "History is not repeated. If we return to the past and if we were the same—and you are not the same and I am not the same—yes, because I think it was a successful ticket. That is a hypothetical question and we, fortunately, do not work theoretically." [passage omitted]

I would tell you that rather than a reform, today we need a constitutional revolution, because if we look at what is happening at some government levels, we can conclude that we are being institutionally forced by Congress. This idea prompted the question: Did you say institutional compulsion? The president answered: "By some congressional sectors," explaining his remarks in the three measures he termed "typical of the administrative area—to modify the retirement age, to replace five customs documents with one customs document, and the repeal or replacement of bids for services. The Executive Branch's jurisdiction is being invaded and that should attract the attention of all political sectors because it implies a weakening of powers." [passage omitted]

Lacalle added that the Executive Branch represents the country's progressive sector, "and the conservative sectors want to prevent progress; this is a proposal exclusively between progress and conservatives. There are those who want things to remain as they are. And we are willing, to the extent our legal powers allow us, to become the apostles of change because if the country does not change it will die. Within Mercosur [Common Market of the South] we are not going to use five customs documents, but there is a conservative mentality of those who today make up an accidental majority that seems to be confirmed in Congress as a permanent majority against change—the preventive apparatus—and as long as that prevails we will continue to say what we want to do. But I cannot herald to the country the transformation it needs." [passage omitted]

Asked about what needs to be done during this government period, Lacalle admitted that it will be "much easier to continue under the current rules than to obtain a majority." He cited the elimination of the requirement of a birth certificate for hundreds of transactions, which demanded the issuance of 1 million certificates per year. Ironically, he added: "Fortunately, at that moment Congress did not state say that it could curtail mayoral work and revenues otherwise it would have approved a law saying: The decree just approved by the Executive Branch is hereby repealed to make all our lives much easier."

[Excerpts] Steps to Modernize the Country

Among other pending things, the president mentioned the laws on public security. Lacalle said the bill ending the insurance monopoly might prosper, adding that "it is a true step toward modernization. There are 250,000 car owners who will be very happy because their insurance policies will be cheaper. Regrettably, the study of this bill has taken two and a half years, almost three years. But, well, it is never late for good news. The approval of the bill ending the insurance monopoly is proof of progress."

Asked if the issue of state reform was not one of the greatest shortcomings of this government, Lacalle said: "No sir, no sir. It is not a shortcoming of my administration. Please do not ask slanted questions. It is a shortcoming of the people who voted against it. My administration sponsored the bill to modernize the state. Therefore, it is not a shortcoming of my administration."

The next question referred to the bill sponsored by the Battleist Forum and Crusade 94 [Colorado Party factions] in Congress and about Chamber of Deputies President Luis Alberto Heber's opinion—favorable in principle—to consider it.

"The Herreraists did not decide that," Lacalle said. "I have a different opinion and I say that those who voted yes [to repeal articles of a law in a referendum] must submit their project."

All those who voted yes, the reporter asked, and Lacalle answered: "All of them, or did they propose different things? All of us around the no vote were united behind our law while those supporting the yes promised they would present a good alternative by 14 December. Because we cannot approve just any bill. We believe the people have spoken. We cannot discuss the issue until the next congressional session because who is more powerful than the people? The people voted against our project. There is nothing else we can say about it. When a proposal sponsored by all those who voted yes is submitted to Congress we will be able to assume that the 72-plus percent majority has its own bill, and we will be able to see if it is viable. But it must be a project in which we share something."

"They can present that bill whenever they wish. Why would we intervene? All those who voted yes must provide a project and vote for it. Perhaps then we will organize another referendum."

Adding to his previous words, the president said the people spoke very clearly, and "I, who grew up in a democratic tradition, who fought for people to express themselves, who spent very bitter hours defending the right to vote, who am I to challenge people's opinions?

Opening and More Consumption

Luis Alberto Lacalle denied that the association of PLUNA [Uruguayan Airlines] with private capital is behind schedule. The president explained each one of the steps taken and under implementation, always very carefully and looking after the seriousness and clarity of the process, and said the government only paused for the referendum. Lacalle said the government is working with equal care in the Colonia-Buenos Aires Bridge and Gas Company projects.

Regarding social policies, Lacalle said they were applied throughout his term and all politics is socially oriented. "We are not going to discuss the semantics of the terms, but we consider lowering inflation a social policy. The opening of the economy is another social policy that has permitted increased consumption. You are aware that people are now consuming more food, more electric appliances, more comfort-giving goods, and purchasing more cars. You and the rest of the people are aware of that fact. Therefore, here you have a "social" policy—within quotes—derived from a economic character decision.

The president gave details on the issue and recalled that never in the country's history was there a larger transfer of resources to the poorest groups than through the social security policy, adding that 460,000 people have seen their incomes increase 390-percent above inflation since April 1990.

The president said investments in education increased from $180 million to $300 million, 44 new secondary schools and 59 primary schools were inaugurated, and teaching programs were changed. In the area of health the president mentioned the completion of the Canelones and Las Piedras hospitals. We contracted $50 million worth of equipment for all clinics and hospitals and purchased 200 ambulances, which will arrive before the end of this year, Lacalle said.

After recalling something Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora said, Lacalle wondered: How do you create resources in an economy in recession, an economy that does not grow, and an inflation rate that eats away everything? Lacalle said the separation between economic and social policies is not true in reality. "I repeat that those programs were possible because we handled our economic policies well."

Lacalle Interviewed on Presidency

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["Summary" of interview with President Luis Alberto Lacalle by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [BUSQUEDA] Before assuming the presidency you said you did not want to be a simple administrator, you wanted to govern the country. Do you think you have governed the country?

[Lacalle] I am satisfied when I compare my electoral platform with what we have accomplished in the past 40 months. A lot has been done. Beyond this, we have introduced in our political atmosphere an almost contractual relationship with voters. The Herreraist Assembly [National Party faction] compared what it promised to do with what has been done and showed it has been loyal to its preelectoral program. We want to strengthen the links between voters and elected officials as another ingredient in making the democratic system both legitimate and effective. When citizens vote they empower elected officials to make the political system work and to introduce changes.

[BUSQUEDA] Herreraists sponsored the law on political parties and an eventual constitutional amendment. Are these initiatives related to the search for efficiency?

[Lacalle] We want the proposals of government tickets to be made public 90 days before an election. This is based on the constitutional rule that parties must publish their programs. We want presidential candidates to register their programs and candidates for legislative positions, and to expressly adhere to their promises.

We have made this proposal because we want campaigns to center on the issues and to avoid comparing the personalities and styles of the candidates. Voters will then know what they are voting for and, consequently, will later know if the candidate has fulfilled his promises.

We talked with other political groups that want constitutional amendments to make the system more effective.

Everything indicates that the next government will be another minority government. We want to establish the structures and rules for the creation of legislative majorities like those we tried to establish voluntarily during this government.

[BUSQUEDA] The Legislative Branch does not approve bills alone, yet it has just blocked your decrees on foreign trade and the public employees pension ceiling. It is also certain that it will reject the bidding on the Colonia free trade zone. How will you govern?

[Lacalle] The Legislative Branch is trampling on attributions that clearly pertain to the administrating power. Laws are rigid. Introducing rigidity into things that should be easy to modify does not help when you need to make changes to face the country's needs.

This Congress acted with incongruous speed. There were issues of great importance that were delayed for long periods, such as the bill on public companies or the bill on port reform. Some bills have not even been considered, such as the bill granting the police more legal weapons to protect officers when they must act. Meanwhile, bills that are not only unnecessary but which have been described as not good by economic agents have been approved rapidly.

We think an exact clarification of executive and legislative prerogatives will clarify this confusion of decisions, which is an intrusion into classically administrative functions.

[BUSQUEDA] What will your political answer be?

[Lacalle] The government can only veto them and wait for Congress to uphold the veto. The Executive Branch can publicly denounce this erroneous use of legislators' prerogatives.

[BUSQUEDA] Is there no other mechanism, such as forcing the dissolution of Congress or declaring the need for urgent security measures?

[Lacalle] We have no mechanism other than the veto. The dissolution of Congress must begin with the censure of a minister. Besides, that measure must be started by the Legislative Branch. Security measures are implemented in cases of internal commotion, which is not the case now.

We could resort to the Supreme Court like when we contested some dispositions of the previous Rendition of Accounts. But it is very slow.

[BUSQUEDA] Are you considering that now?

[Lacalle] It is one weapon, but the court is very slow.

[BUSQUEDA] If Congress questions a minister, are you ready to force legislators to put their seats in danger?

[Lacalle] I do not work on the basis of theories. We will decide whether we cross that bridge when we come to it. Dissolving both chambers of Congress is only possible before November.

[BUSQUEDA] Do you think the attitude of Congress is related to electoral interests?

[Lacalle] There must be some electoral ingredient, but that is not bad in itself. I cannot criticize this because I began my electoral campaign early. We disagree when positions are influenced by electoral mobilizations.

[BUSQUEDA] Economy and Finance Minister Ignacio de Posadas, on 22 June, announced a series of public spending cuts. However, those responsible for the largest spending have not been touched.

[Lacalle] That is not so. The government acted on two fronts: First, it evaluated what could effectively be done—which is always just a part of what has been projected—and second, it considered the availability of resources before deciding on cuts or works that can be postponed. We have not implemented any cuts. We just established what was possible without increasing expenditures. We have very little flexibility to cut public spending.

[BUSQUEDA] The government announced the need to cut spending and investments. At the same time the transport minister said his portfolio will cooperate with what was saved due to the construction workers' strike and what the government was not able to spend. This is very confusing.

[Lacalle] That is precisely what the government will save.

[BUSQUEDA] Do you not think the message is contradictory?

[Lacalle] I do not think it is contradictory. Each ministry must appear to be doing everything possible.

[BUSQUEDA] Regarding public expenses, the salary issue is very important. Will the wage increase planned for public employees in September be 7 percent, or 8 percent as established in the economic program?

[Lacalle] I will not forecast the percentage. We must see how the budget report is processed. Although it envisages a salary policy as of 1 January next year, it will influence the decision on salaries next September.

[BUSQUEDA] Can we at least say that the salary increase will be in keeping with the expenses foreseen in the fiscal policy?

[Lacalle] The variable is the final result of the budget report. We must wait to see what salary figures are approved and what increases are prompted by the budget report itself.

[BUSQUEDA] That is, the greater the expenses....

[Lacalle] ....the less elbowroom to grant salary increases. It is not a problem of goodwill or not. Our actions are limited by the need to ensure that expenses do not exceed income.

[BUSQUEDA] The adjustment announced in May was meant to give a signal to the market. Do you think that the market is now awaiting something similar?

[Lacalle] Probably, but let us wait to see how the budget report is processed before giving any signals.

[BUSQUEDA] A few weeks ago, when it was rumored that there would be some changes in the economic team, you said there would be no changes "for the time being," which makes the current team seem temporary. Do you want de Posadas and [Central Bank President] Ramon Diaz to continue in their posts until the conclusion of the presidential mandate?

[Lacalle] Every time I am asked if a minister or a high-ranking official will be replaced I answer that if the conditions continue the same, the officials will be the same; if the situation calls for change, officials will be changed. I do not think we should treat this matter with so much importance. When one begins a government, one would prefer to maintain the same team for the whole mandate, but reality calls for other needs and times.

[BUSQUEDA] Do you foresee any changes in the short term?

[Lacalle] I cannot forecast because we may or may not decide next week, or at any time during the rest of my mandate. Any answer would be incorrect.

[BUSQUEDA] Would you rule out a currency devaluation, either on a short or medium term? Will the current monetary policy be maintained, that is, a 2-percent monthly devaluation and the 7-percent floating dollar rate?

[Lacalle] I think that the dollar exchange rate demonstrates that the policy we are carrying out is solid because the exchange rate has never jumped. Agents have remained confident.

[BUSQUEDA] And later?

[Lacalle] Later? Who knows which horses will win next Sunday's races in Maronas?

[BUSQUEDA] I ask this because it has been said that our currency has lost competitiveness, that the trade deficit is considerable, and that the gap between the IPC [Consumers Price Index] and the dollar exchange rate has widened, all within a context of controlled inflation and a fiscal situation that has yet to be resolved.

[Lacalle] When the latest measures were adopted we set a prudent period of time to see how the economy reacted in general. We are still within that period and the results of the budget report will be important.

[BUSQUEDA] What will happen after that period expires?

[Lacalle] Nothing. We will analyze the results, but I cannot announce anything until the period of analysis is over.

[BUSQUEDA] You are not giving any signals about the wage increase for public employees, or about an eventual currency devaluation, or about the permanence of the economic team. Will this not encourage uncertainty?

[Lacalle] Economic decisions are delicate and I do not think they should be discussed in detail. The economic guidelines have been given, the economic team is working. Despite the difficulties, the economic guidelines will be maintained as long as the circumstances remain the same.

Defense Minister Asserts Armed Forces Law-Abiding

PY0308225993 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 27 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] Defense Minister Mariano Brito yesterday swore on his honor that institutional stability in the country was never put at risk by the military during the current administration. He spoke about the Berrios case and said the executive branch will not interfere either in the military or civil court processes investigating the case of the Chilean citizen. He also denied that young military officers have any ambitions for power or resentment about events that took place in past decades.

Minister Brito made an evaluation of the Armed Forces' situation and he stressed their self-analyzing capability to adapt themselves to the current world times and to their future linked with UN peace missions. He stressed the Armed Forces' calling for democracy as well as subordination and obedience to their government superiors.

"I am absolutely convinced, given my relations during the past 41 months with members of the military, that they have a decided call for democracy," Mariano Brito said during the "Bravisimo" program transmitted by Radio Carve yesterday morning.

"When asked whether the Armed Forces' respect and subordination to the Defense Ministry and the president of the Republic had ever been placed at risk, Brito said: "I am going to give you a definite answer and compromises my honor. I say it with the absolute conviction of one who has pursued a single professional activity outside teaching at the university, which has been defense minister."

I came here with a determined legal background at 59 years of age and a clear moral conviction; that is why what I am about to say compromises my honor: "I assert that in the last 41 months nobody within the Armed Forces—from commanders to the rank and file—has, in his relations with the [defense] minister, ever questioned the validity of legitimately constituted authorities, be it the president or the [defense] minister in this case, or shown resentment against subordination. I invariably noticed respect and obedience."

Brito added that what "does happen, will happen, and should happen, though, is that whenever a soldier has a query that he deems he has to raise with his senior officer within the framework of relations between commanding officer and his subordinates, he then does it." He noted that the military has thus acted vis-a-vis the defense minister and the president of the Republic, who, according to the Constitution, are the top commanders.

With regards to the military's stance on the past, Brito stated that "rather than talking about after-effects, what I find (in the Armed Forces) is a will to seek solutions to and a way out of problems. What is happening now, namely the submission (to the president of the Republic) of the studies made by the commanders of the Armed Forces' three branches on the Armed Forces' restructuring, is proof of what I am asserting."

The defense minister was asked whether young officers have fully understood the incursion of the military into power in the past. Brito answered that young officers, with whom he frequently talks in his visits to barracks and at the Defense Ministry, have "great expectations of their profession," and they are acquiring a solid professional basis and have "high expectations for the Armed Forces' future."

Brito underscored the self-analysis taking place in all sectors, which are considering the here and now—without prejudice to their essential mission, which is immutable—how the world is changing and to what extent they must adapt to it and seek solutions without changing the substantive component of their mission.

He pointed out that within that process, it is necessary to consider the important role played by Uruguay's Armed Forces in UN peacekeeping missions, and underlined the significance of the offer made by the United Nations to Uruguay to discharge these duties. Brito said that some 2,000 men have been engaged in the wonderful operation of "peacekeeping forces," which was magnificently carried out in Cambodia, so much so that the operation attained the electoral aim that it sought, as 90 percent of the population went to the polls, thus embarking upon the path of peace.

As for a possible "ambition for power" within the Armed Forces, Brito made a point of choosing the precise words to express his ideas, as he said that this expression may give rise to some confusion. He said: "The Armed Forces do have institutionalized power because they have a mission to fulfill and the means to do so. But like all branches within a state subject to the rule of law, the Armed Forces are subject and subordinate to something. Not even the highest command, which is the Executive Branch, has unlimited power. It is subject to parliamentary control, jurisdictional control; it has limitations established by the Constitution and the law. Thus, undoubtedly, the military are elements that wield power, but within what is established in the Constitution. Don't they by any chance exert public authority and command? Hence, they are by all means elements that wield power, but subject to the rule of law, something that is the very essence of a democratic state. Anything to the contrary would be totalitarian, and this is by no means admissible."